

THE TIMES
1785-1985
Tomorrow

Tough man
Profile of the Australian who has taken TV-am out of danger and into safety

Strong man
The 6ft 7in, 23-stone British discuss thrower who is known in the United States as "Mr Mary Decker"

Spirited reply
James Fenton reviews A. N. Wilson's book about why he believes in God

Cutting edge
Do gold and diamonds make a good investment?

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition prize of £4,000 was shared by six winners yesterday. Miss Valerie Ingersoll of Binfield Heath, Oxfordshire; Mr Mark Bellamy of London; Mr Andrew Pearce of Rayne, Essex; Mr Nicholas Caddick of Oxford; Miss Ella Meldrum of Donfoot, Ayr; and Mr Paul Kelly of Ipswich each received £666.66. Portfolio list, page 16; how to play, information service, back page. Saturday's weekly Portfolio prize is £20,000.

\$2-billion aid needed for Africa

More than \$2 billion of emergency aid is needed this year for 30 African nations hit by drought and civil war, according to Mr James Grant, executive director of the UN Children's Fund. But a UNICEF appeal had raised only \$21 million so far.

Harvest failure, page 6

Kidnap escape

Police were questioning a number of people after Mrs Bernadette Spence, wife of a Northern Ireland businessman, was abducted and held hostage for a £100,000 ransom. She escaped from her armed kidnappers.

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BR jobs threat

British Rail said thousands of jobs were at risk because of mounting losses in freight business unless unions were willing to improve productivity.

Page 2

Minister to stay

Austria's Defence Minister, Herr Friedrich Frischenschlager, will not resign over his welcome for the former SS officer Walter Reder, Chancellor Fred Sinowatz announced.

Page 6

Penniless EEC

The Commons is likely to be asked before long to approve another loan to haul the EEC out of its cash problems.

Page 7

Author's prize

James Buchan, grandson of John Buchan who wrote *The 39 Steps*, has won a £2,000 prize for his first novel in the Whitbread Literary Awards.

Workers' Pope

The Pope, on the last day of his Venezuelan visit, spoke out strongly for workers' rights and condemned technology which could reduce them to slaves.

Earlier report, page 9

Leader page, 13
Letters: On Austrians and Nazi, from Mr T. D. Bridge; agricultural research, from Sir Ralph Riley, FRS

Leading articles:
The Pound: Austria and the Nazi; Mrs Thatcher and Oxford Features, pages 10-12

Why the sterling crisis does Opec good; "Success" in an Ethiopian camp; Political screening for the video player; Get set go - women in small businesses; Reagan is president but Congress reigns

Obituary, page 14
Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Cameron of Balhousie, Chieftain Murray

Classified advertising: Crime de la crème 24, 25; property 26, 27

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Coal 'talks' fail to produce agenda

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The pit peace process faltered again last night after informal talks between miners' leaders and the National Coal Board failed to yield an acceptable joint agenda for negotiations.

The full executive of the National Union of Mineworkers has been called into emergency session in London today after national officials called for an immediate resumption of negotiations without preconditions.

Mr Arthur Scargill, the union's president, called for a "positive response" from the board to new proposals from the strikers.

But the board adopted a more cautious tone, reiterating its insistence that before full-scale negotiations could begin the miners must indicate their readiness to talk about the closure of "uneconomic" pits.

This they signally failed to do in a preliminary round of "talks about talks" between Mr Peter Heathfield, the union's general secretary, and Mr Merrick Spanton, the board member for personnel, lasting three hours at a secret location in the West End of London.

The purpose of this face-to-face meeting was to draw up an agenda for full-scale negotiations, possibly beginning tomorrow, that would involve the union talking about the closure of uneconomic capacity.

Mr Michael Eaton, the board's chief spokesman, said that he had hoped the "talks about talks" would form the basis of real grounds for negotiation. "But they have not", he added. "And I am disappointed".

The issue of uneconomic pits was raised during yesterday's joint session, but only by the board and there was no positive response from the union.

Whether this represents the union's final bargaining position is not clear. The 26-man executive could take a more flexible line today.

Mr Heathfield went from the meeting with the board to Congress House for discussions with Mr Scargill and Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC.

Less than an hour later the miners' president emerged to give this statement: "At today's meeting between the NUM and the NCB, the union tabled a number of new initiatives which we believe could provide the basis and help to resolve the present industrial dispute."

"Both sides have agreed to report back to the full board and the union's national executive."

"The NUM has sent the board a letter seeking an immediate resumption of formal negotiations to be held without preconditions."

"Our full national executive committee will be meeting tomorrow morning and will be

standing by ready to participate in talks this week. We hope the coal board will respond positively."

This statement, reiterating the union's hard-line policy on how the negotiations should be structured, rang alarm bells in coal board headquarters.

Senior managers confined themselves to a terse comment, saying: "The NCB at informal talks in London today invited the NUM to submit proposals for settling the dispute, taking into account the principal issue of uneconomic capacity. The NUM general secretary said he would consult with his colleagues and the board await his reply."

By late yesterday evening the board was still saying that it had not yet received Mr Scargill's letter. As the uncertainty grew, there was no further statement from the union.

The only reliable pointer that emerged from the propaganda exchanges was that both sides want the peace process to continue, but on their own terms.

The board last night reported that another 194 strikers had gone back to work, confirming the slowdown evident at the beginning of the week in the numbers of men abandoning the stoppage. But if the talks fail again a fresh surge back to work is expected.

'No surrender' picket, page 2

Kinnock censure motion

Opposition forces economy debate

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer have been obliged by the weakness of sterling and the raising of interest rates to 14 per cent to appear in the Commons tomorrow to defend their management of the British economy.

They will be there at the instance of Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, who yesterday with his colleagues tabled the first motion of censure of the present Parliament.

Labour's move against the Government was announced by Mr Kinnock after a lively question time, in which he accused Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Mr Nigel Lawson of bungling management and of causing chaos by their policies.

The terms of the Labour motion, tabled shortly afterwards, censured the Government for "gross mismanagement of the British economy, which has led to the highest real interest rates, the worst manufacturing trade deficit, and the highest level of unemployment in the history of Great Britain".

Mr Kinnock will open the assault, and Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader and Shadow Chancellor, will wind up for the Opposition.

As convention required, the

Government responded at once by changing Commons business to dispose of the motion at the earliest possible date, and by matching the Opposition speakers with ministers of equivalent rank. The debate on the RAF, previously arranged for tomorrow, was postponed.

In yesterday's preliminary bout, Mrs Thatcher was unmoved by Mr Kinnock's vigorous accusations. He began by saying the Government had in turn opposed higher interest rates and market intervention to defend the pound, had tried them and had found they did not work. What was the Prime Minister going to do now?

Mrs Thatcher recalled that Mr Kinnock had recently described speculation against sterling as irresponsible and irrational. She hoped he thought the same now, and thought the Government's corrective action well-judged.

Mr Kinnock said it was she, not he, who believed in the market system. Her strategy was coming apart at the seams.

The exchanges persuaded MPs that the half-promised tax cuts were now looking insubstantial. Mrs Thatcher emphasised that the Government's defensive action had imposed

Continued on page 2, col 6

Government to forestall MPs' revolt on Stansted

By Our Political Editor

The Government yesterday took emergency action to try to draw the sting from tonight's expected demonstration by up to 100 of its own supporters who oppose the proposed development of Stansted, in Essex, as London's third international airport.

In an exercise for which no precedent could be found, ministers and their parliamentary private secretaries were told not to vote when the anti-Stansted alliance of Conservative and Opposition MPs divide the Commons tonight. Unless there is an extraordinary failure by the Opposition parties to appear, the anti-Stansted forces will force the adjournment of the House and claim a victory.

Ministers, who saw no hope of mustering the strength to win

a vote, were yesterday hoping that by declaring in advance that there was no contest, they might minimize their embarrassment.

On Monday they took another step to downgrade today's debate by changing the two-line whip to their supporters, which says that attendance is "essential", to a one-line whip, which merely requests an MP's attendance and is in fact an invitation to potential rebels, to take the evening off.

A more palpable and potentially more awkward defeat is in prospect next week, when MPs will be asked to approve a ministerial order imposing excess charges on the Thames Water Authority, which serves about a quarter of the English electorate. "Water tax", page 2

Four held in London sent back to Syria

Four Arabs, held by the Metropolitan Police under the Prevention of Terrorism Act for the past week were deported to Syria yesterday.

A Home Office spokesman said Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, had personally certified the deportation because the men's presence in Britain was "not conducive to the public good".

An official from the Syrian Embassy is understood to have visited the four men before they were sent back to Damascus. The Foreign Office said it did not interfere in the case.

Heseltine aide gives evidence in camera

By Stewart Tindler
Crime Reporter

The private secretary to Mr Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, yesterday gave evidence in camera for most of the second day of the trial of Clive Ponting, the official accused of breaching the Official Secrets Act 1911 by passing papers on the Belgrano incident to an MP.

Mr Ponting, aged 38, an assistant secretary at the Ministry of Defence, has pleaded not guilty at the Central Criminal Court to a breach of Section two of the Act. He is accused of passing to Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, a draft of

replies to questions by the MP on the Belgrano's sinking, and also a paper by another Defence official on how to handle questions from a Commons select committee on the sinking.

Yesterday, for more than four hours behind closed doors, Mr Richard Mottram, Mr Heseltine's private secretary, gave evidence on the "crown jewels" which the court has been told is the nickname for a classified definitive account of the Belgrano sinking. It was prepared by Mr Ponting for Mr Heseltine, last year.

Mr Roy Amiot, counsel for the prosecution, who called Mr Mottram as a crown witness, said the civil servant would

continue his evidence in open court today, and there were no further plans for the proceedings to go into camera again.

Earlier, before the court was closed, Mr Mottram told the jury that the "crown jewels" were prepared after questions about the Belgrano from Mr Denzil Davies, Labour spokesman on defence, to the Prime Minister, and then questions by Mr Dalyell in a letter to Mr Heseltine.

Mr Ponting was asked to consider replies to Mr Davies and drew up two alternatives. One admitted the Belgrano had been seen on May 1, the day before it was sunk, and the other did not. Mr Ponting, in a

covering note said the new date did not breach any operational or intelligence restraints but went against a number of statements already made.

After the letter from Mr Dalyell was received Mr Mottram said the Secretary of State decided he would not advise the Prime Minister on her reply or answer Mr Dalyell until all the facts had been set out before him.

At the start of the day, Mr Justice McCowan agreed with a request from Mr Bruce Langlands, QC, appearing for Mr Ponting, that the defendant should sit near him and not in

Continued on back page, col 7



Mr Tebbit unveiling the White Paper on investor protection yesterday (Photograph: Bill Warhurst).

Tougher rules will protect investors

The Government yesterday unveiled a long-awaited White Paper proposing tighter rules to protect investors and tougher penalties for crimes and sharp practice. Philip Robinson writes.

However, Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said the changes would not rule out further scandals. "It would be a brave man who could say that the rules could prevent any scandal of a particular kind", he said.

Investors will be protected by a mass of regulations designed to weed out unfit and financially suspect advisers. Policing of the rules will be left to two boards, one covering firms which buy and sell shares and other investments; the other

governing the way investments are sold to the public.

Advisers not licensed by either of the boards will be operating illegally, although they can appeal to a government-backed tribunal whose word will be final.

The boards will be staffed by a majority of people from the City, and will be given legal backing.

Investors who lose money when a company collapses will be protected by a compensation fund.

The new scheme will cost £5 million to £6 million a year, all of which will be borne by the City and investors themselves through a share dealing levy and higher fees.

Parliament, page 4
Summary, page 20

US cautious on Moscow war treaty

By Henry Stanhope
Diplomatic Correspondent

A Soviet draft treaty on the non-use of force was given a cautious welcome last night by the United States representative to the Stockholm Conference on Disarmament in Europe.

The representative, Mr James Goodby, criticised the language of the draft, but welcomed the fact that the Russians were ready to start detailed discussions. NATO's proposals would be presented soon.

The widely-predicted draft treaty, presented yesterday at the reopening of the conference by the Soviet representative, Mr Oleg Grinevsky, obliges all signatories not to be the first to take up arms, nuclear or conventional, against each other or against any third party.

● WASHINGTON: Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, said yesterday that differences between the United States and the Soviet Union about linkage between the three sets of arms talks to open in Geneva on March 12 must be solved. (Nicholas Ashford writes).

The US wants accords to be signed as points of agreement are reached, but the Soviet side wants to conclude a pact only when agreement has been reached in all three talks.

East-West arms, page 7

Ridley in new row over Bill

By Richard Evans
Lobby Reporter

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, was at the centre of another political row last night for deciding to legislate his way round a recent unfavourable High Court judgment involving a wrongful demand of £50 million from the Greater London Council.

He was accused in the Commons of "shameless arrogance and political chicanery" by Mr Peter Snape, a Labour transport spokesman, who described Mr Ridley's decision to avoid complying with the court ruling as a "constitutional outrage".

Earlier this month Mr Ridley was found to be "unlawful, irrational and procedurally improper" in taking about £50 million more than he should have done from the GLC for the new London Regional Transport Authority.

Mr Ridley told MPs the court judgment was contrary to the interest of ratepayers and LRT's passengers, and a new Bill was needed to ensure the original purpose of the London Regional Transport Act was carried out.

Mr Snape, said if a Labour minister had acted in the same cavalier way he would have been torn to pieces by Fleet Street.

Parliament, page 4

Trident cost jumps by £1,400m

By Anthony Bevins
Political Correspondent

The cost of the Trident nuclear deterrent has jumped by £1,400 million to £10,700 million since last June - £200 million a month - the Ministry of Defence revealed yesterday.

With 45 per cent of the Trident budget to be spent in the United States, the falling pound has driven the price of the project sky-high and government embarrassment was underlined by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence in the House of Commons.

Mr Heseltine provoked all-round laughter when he told MPs that his latest cost calculations assumed an exchange rate of \$1.38 to the pound, giving an "updated" estimate of £9,285 million.

Whitehall sources said afterwards that the minister's figures were based on June's exchange rate. The subsequent fall of 28 cents in the value of the pound added a further £1,400 million to the bill.

The September 1980 estimate for the Trident system, based on an exchange rate of \$2.36, was £8,000 million. One year later, with the pound at \$1.78 the cost rose to £7,500 million.

Undoubtedly, the rocketing cost of the project is causing some disquiet on the Conservative benches, but Mr Heseltine yesterday dealt robustly with criticism from Mr Denzil Davies, Labour's defence spokesman, who questioned the need for the project when no rational person could ever contemplate using it.

Mr Heseltine replied: "Are we to gather that the nuclear weapons which his government thought so necessary were somehow usable, when the Trident programme is not?"

It is now thought that the first Trident boat, which is expected to be ordered later this year, will take over from one of the Polaris submarines towards the end of the decade.

Parliament, page 4

3 charged with Kent killing

Three people were remanded in police custody last night charged with the murder of Det Constable John Fordham, a Scotland Yard undercover officer, on Saturday.

After a 45-minute hearing at a special court in Dartford, the three were returned to Metropolitan Police stations in Kent for further questioning.

Mr Kenneth Noye, aged 37, appeared in court with his wife Brenda, 35, and Bryan Reader, 45. The couple's address was given as Hollywood Cottage, West Kingsdown, Kent.

After the three were taken away, Mrs Lynn Reader, 41, was remanded in police custody for three days charged with dishonestly handling a stolen quantity of cash.

Oxford votes to snub Thatcher

By Lucy Hodges
Education Correspondent

Oxford dons threw tradition to the wind and delivered a strong rebuke to Mrs Margaret Thatcher and her education policies when they voted yesterday by 738 votes to 319 to stop her being awarded an honorary degree.

This is the first time an Oxford-educated Prime Minister has been rejected by his or her alma mater and it is a measure of how deeply academics feel about Government cuts in education spending. One speaker said Mrs Thatcher was responsible for actions which seriously jeopardized the central purpose for which the university existed.

More than 1,000 dons crowded into the Sheldonian Theatre to hear some impassioned speeches at the special meeting of Congre-



gation, the university's parliament. It lasted two hours and had to be cut short. Six other people were awarded honorary degrees on the nod, including President Sandro Pertini of Italy.

The only other person since the war to be rejected for such a degree was President Bhabo of Pakistan in 1975.

Professor Denis Noble, a Fellow of the Royal Society and Professor of Physiology, whose speech won long and loud applause, said that Mrs Thatcher knew and had been warned that scientists were extremely alarmed and deeply worried about what was happening.

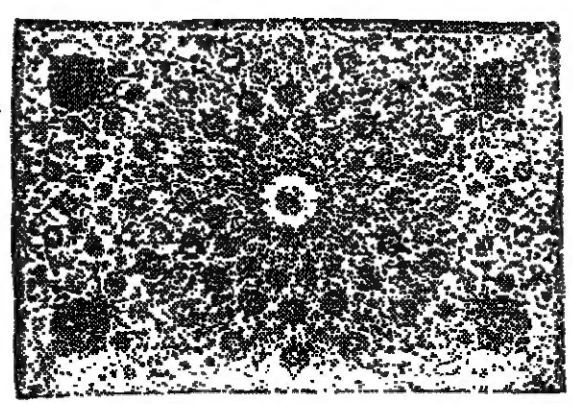
"This may be the last chance for any serious academic institution to stop the catastrophe that we face as a scientific and educational nation," he said. "In two or three years' time it will be too late."

On top of the cuts there was chaos, he added. The research councils were faced with not knowing from week to week how much they had to spend. This was simply unbelievable.

Earlier, Professor Peter Pulzer, Gladstone Professor of Government and Public Administration, took issue with Sir Patrick Neill, Warden of

Continued on back page, col 3

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British Rail tells unions jobs are at risk over lost freight business

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

British Rail yesterday told union leaders that thousands of jobs were at risk because of mounting losses in its freight business and indicated that staff cuts would start soon unless the unions indicated a willingness to implement controversial productivity improvements.

The immediate problem of the unions' blocking of coal and iron ore was shelved at the meeting between the three rail unions and the management, in the hope that there will be an early resolution of the mining dispute. But Mr Bob Reid, chairman of British Rail, told the unions that a further £48 million loss in the freight business has been identified on top of revenue losses which will amount to £215 million by the end of the month.

Both sides are due to reconvene in three weeks, when British Rail expects the unions to indicate an acceptance of two productivity items outstanding since the shopping list of six new working methods was drawn up more than five years ago.

The deepening crisis on the railways is reflected in the unions and management recording a failure to agree recently on the two items, with the addition of a third in terms of negotiating machinery that means that the two sides will probably make one last attempt to reach agreement, or refer the disputed points to Lord McCarthy's arbitration tribunal.

Mr Reid told the unions yesterday that it was vital to press ahead with the removal of guards from freight trains and the removal of the second man in the cabs for shunting work in depots and round stations. In addition the board is seeking agreement for the removal of guards on more passenger trains.

3,000 miners in 'no surrender' protest

From Craig Seton, Bampton Brierlow

More than 3,000 miners staged the first mass picket of strikers for more than two months at Cortonwood colliery, South Yorkshire, yesterday in a "no surrender" demonstration of support for Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers.

Five strikers, including a Cortonwood picket, were arrested in scuffles with hundreds of police officers who donned riot gear when they were stoned by the gathering crowd. Police said that the strikers were given four public warnings by a senior officer before their men put on protective helmets with visors and took up riot shields outside the colliery entrance.

Only 22 out of more than 800 miners at the pit are working but they left the colliery after the day shift safely in spite of the large crowd.

The demonstration apparently took the police by surprise and was a show of strength deliberately timed to coincide with the "talks about talks" which started yesterday in London between the NUM and the National Coal Board.

The strikers, mainly from the Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire coalfields, made it clear that it was to show that in spite of reports to the contrary they could still mount a mass

● An underground fire at the Frances colliery in Fife, was last night threatening the only production face at working. Emergency teams of working miners and NUM members were allowed below ground were attempting to damp down the over-heated face.

● Four striking miners, who took part in an affray in the West Midlands pit village of Keresley, near Coventry, in which a number of policemen were attacked, were jailed yesterday at Warwick Crown Court.

John Bell, aged 44, Colin Ward, aged 27, Dennis Evans, aged 29, and William Jackson, aged 34, all of Keresley, were found guilty of affray. Each was sentenced to eight months in jail, with all but six weeks suspended.

Leslie Ward, aged 22, of Bedworth, Warwickshire, was cleared of affray on the judge's direction, but was found guilty of assaulting a police officer. He was jailed for six months.

● A test case claim by Mr Nicholas Bland, a striking miner, that the Government is unlawfully cutting supplementary benefit payments to strikers' families is expected to be heard by an DHSS appeal tribunal on Friday. This follows the refusal by two judges last week to hear the case in the High Court.

Whitehall pay lure to attract 'high flyers'

By David Walker
Social Policy Correspondent

The Government is planning a controversial new programme of recruitment to the Civil Service in an effort to compensate for Whitehall's failure to get enough of the "best and brightest" of Britain's university graduates.

Figures for 1984, not yet officially released, show that of 100 places in the Inspectorate of Taxes, open only to graduates with high class degrees, 55 candidates of sufficient calibre were found although 70 people had applied for each available place.

Figures for the administration trainee scheme, people who in theory will move eventually into senior jobs in Whitehall, were slightly more impressive. There were 66 vacancies and 58 candidates were thought good enough to be offered positions, although it is not clear how many of these will take up the offers.

A spokesman for the Cabinet Office's Manpower and Personnel Office yesterday acknowledged "official concern, if these trends continue".

In response the government has decided to open up the main promotion grade for high fliers, the position of HEO (D), to entrants, between the ages of 26 and 32. That way entrants to the Civil Service might be attracted by the higher salary offered for that grade.

But the move has brought opposition from the union representing executive officers, The Society of Civil and Public Servants, says the new scheme will block promotion prospects for junior officials.

Mr Campbell Christie, the union's deputy general secretary, said that recruitment shortfalls were caused by the Government's failure since 1980 to update Civil Service pay in line with comparable jobs in the private sector.

Last year there were significant gaps in Whitehall's intake of specialists as well as general Civil Servants and tax inspectors. Barely half the number of economists and two thirds the number of statisticians wanted by Whitehall were recruited.

The First Division Association, representing higher grade Civil Servants, said the Government had said that recruitment was a prime factor in deciding pay levels and appeared consistently to have ignored the point.

The latest figures are especially disappointing to the Civil Service Commission, which oversees recruitment into Whitehall. Its members have recently been on a number of tours around provincial universities trying to convince undergraduates that there was a demand for bright candidates outside the traditional Oxbridge mould.

Healthy Civil Servants, page 3

Driving ban on Spurs player

Tony Parks, the Tottenham Hotspur goalkeeper, was fined £120 and banned from driving for 15 months by Tottenham magistrates yesterday.

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Mrs Speers, who was blindfolded and chained by abductors but freed herself after 31 hours.

£100,000 ransom woman flees kidnappers

From Richard Ford
Dublin

The wife of a Northern Ireland businessman, held hostage for 31 hours for a £100,000 ransom, fled from her armed abductors yesterday and returned to her home in Co. Antrim.

Mrs Bernadette Speers, aged 37, a part-time teacher, freed herself from a door to which she had been blindfolded with her feet chained since being kidnapped from the

family home on Sunday. No money was handed over for the release of Mrs Speers, who last night was planning a short holiday after being reunited with her husband, Patrick, a car dealer.

Meanwhile 100 miles away in Dublin, a terrorist gang is suspected of escaping with £170,000 from a city centre bank after kidnapping its manager's family. Last night the family was released unharmed.

Mrs Speers was abducted after a masked man armed with a hand gun held her husband at gunpoint demanding £100,000 when they returned to their home on the outskirts of Antrim city on Sunday.

When Mr Speers was unable to produce the cash, the men bound and gagged his wife, took her to a waiting car and warned Mr Speers that if the Royal Ulster Constabulary were told, he would not see his wife again.

She had been taken to an isolated shed in the Antrim area, bound to a door and left alone for long periods apart from visits by her abductor who gave her cigarettes, tea and toast.

Through Monday night as she lay alone, Mrs Speers worked to escape from her bonds and somehow freed herself and stumbled to a main road where she was picked up early yesterday by an RUC patrol.

Supplies of blood hit by weather

By Alan Hamilton

Bad weather has caused a shortage of blood supplies in the National Blood Transfusion Service and forced London hospitals to make emergency appeals for donors in two serious wounding cases in the past week.

Fellow police officers had to give blood at King's College Hospital, south-east London, six days ago when PC George Hammond required a transfusion of 120 pints after being stabbed. On Monday, 45 policemen again responded to an emergency appeal when Mr Steven Hindley, a shoe shop assistant, was rushed to Westminster Hospital, after a stabbing incident. Mr Hindley died soon afterwards.

Officials of the blood transfusion service in London reported yesterday that because of bad weather and the aftermath of the Christmas holidays, many regular blood donors had not been keeping their appointments, and stocks had fallen below normal levels.

But news of the emergency appeal for PC Hammond clearly, prickled many consciences, and supplies have been rising in the past few days. The North-East Thames transfusion centre based at Brentwood, and serving a large area of the capital, reported yesterday that the number of daily donors had risen to 140 from an average of 110.

"If all regular donors would turn up when they are called twice a year, there would be no shortage of supplies", a spokesman said.

Britain has about two million regular donors.

Extra funds for liver transplants

The Government is to spend an extra £1.5 million next year on liver transplants and kidney treatment for children, Mr John Patten, Under Secretary of State for Health and Social Services, announced yesterday.

Liver transplantation is to be set up as a "supra-regional" specialty where a small number of centres provide difficult or expensive treatment for which there is limited demand.

Spending next year will reach £2.3 million, almost £1 million more than this year to enable the very limited service at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and at King's College Hospital, London, to be expanded by the addition of centres at the Royal Free Hospital in London and at Birmingham.

An extra £500,000 is also to be spent expanding kidney failure treatment for children, a sum large enough "to ensure that treatment is available for all children who suffer from end stage renal failure and would benefit from treatment", Mr Patten said.

Prison for sending computers to East

From Patricia Clogh, Winchester

A businessman who illegally exported more than £2 million worth of high technology equipment to Eastern Europe to finance "an almost insane passion" to build a great computer design bureau was jailed for three years by Winchester Crown Court yesterday.

Bryan Vernon Williamson, aged 53, of Ringwood, Hampshire, pleaded guilty to 14 charges of exporting or attempting to export eight computers, spare parts and attachments to Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria, knowing that their sale was banned because of American fears that they could be used for military purposes. He also pleaded guilty to forgery in order to obtain an export licence.

His technical director, Christopher Albert Carrigan, aged 43, of Bransford, Hampshire, was jailed for 18 months for his part in some of the exports. He admitted eight charges.

Their arrest followed American investigations and pressure on allies to clamp down, in spite of the view in European countries that many of the computers are of no significant military use.

Professor Anthony John Sannes, head of computer science at the Royal Military College of Science, said that one of the computers, a VAX 11-

780, exported to a hospital in Sofia, Bulgaria, could be used alone with other parts as a military command control system. It could also help the communist countries to improve their own high technology.

But Professor David William Barron, head of computer studies at Southampton University, said that the Soviet Union seemed to have computers of equal power and it might not make sense to copy it. "It would also probably have to write their own programmes for it and it might take months".

Both experts agreed that other computers which Williamson and Carrigan had attempted to export, 10-year-old PDP 1134s, were outdated and superseded by much better and stronger models.

Mr Patrick Back, QC, for Williamson, said that exporting to the Eastern bloc was the only means the accused had of rescuing his floundering company, Datalec, in Wimborne, Dorset. He had borrowed £402,000 to set it up.

"Tragically he was bitten by an almost insane passion to build up a great organization... but it all turned to naught", Mr Back said.

Williamson and Carrigan had assured themselves that the computers were being used for purely civilian purposes.

Teachers may act on pay claim

Britain's two main teaching unions yesterday forecast the possibility of industrial action over their pay claim.

Union officials representing 440,000 teachers in England and Wales rejected a 4 per cent offer after six hours of talks.

"Another meeting of the Burnham Committee, the pay negotiating body, is expected within the next fortnight."

Six teaching unions are involved in the talks. The National Union of Teachers, with 230,000 members, is the largest.

They are demanding an increase of between 12 per cent and 13 per cent - a £1,200 rise - for all teachers from April.

"We will be seeking a further meeting of the Burnham Committee within the next 14 days - as is our right", a spokesman for the NUT said.

Murder charge

John Graham Woode, aged 35, will appear at Bow Street Magistrates' Court today charged with the murder of Mr Steven Hindley, aged 22, an assistant manager at a shoe shop in New Bond Street, London.

£6m oriental paintings up for auction

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The collapse of one of the richest private companies in America, Coral Petroleum, has dropped a £6 million collection of oriental paintings into Sotheby's upstretched hands.

The auctioneers have greeted the deal with ecstatic enthusiasm, describing the 61 pictures as "the world's finest collection of oriental paintings" and "one of the most fascinating collections to appear at auction."

The collection is almost unique in its field and will become a landmark. It was formed by Mr David B. Chalmers, the chairman and only stock holder of Coral Petroleum.

The star of the collection is by the British artist, J. F. Lewis, a brilliant harem scene entitled "An Interpreted Correspondence". It came up for sale at Christie's in 1980 and sold for £220,000, at the time an auction

price record for any Victorian painting. Sotheby's is suggesting a price on the picture of between £1 million and £1.5 million.

From France come no fewer than 10 important paintings by Gerome, one of the most successful and feted academic artists who was famed for his oriental pictures. Eugene Delacroix, the towering genius of French Romanticism, became addicted to oriental subjects after a visit to North Africa in 1832 and is represented by "Horses leaving the watering pond" of 1857 (estimate \$300,000-\$400,000).

Paper profits, page 20

Opposition forces economic debate

Continued from page 1

financial discipline on all sections of the economy, including the Government.

Share prices fell again yesterday in the wake of Monday's two-point rise in base rates and amid nervousness over the outcome of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' talks in Geneva.

According to Datastream calculations, £2.9 billion was

wiped off share values yesterday, to add to the £4 billion fall on Monday.

The Financial Times 30 share index, down 25 points at 3pm yesterday, closed 16.6 down at 961.2. The wider FT-SE 100 index, fell 16.5 to 1,249.3.

City nervousness persisted despite a better day for the pound. Sterling gained 30 points to \$1.145.

Later in New York, the

Gold find may be Heathrow bullion

By Richard Dowden

Detectives investigating the £26 million gold bullion robbery at Heathrow in 1983 disclosed yesterday that they had discovered 11 kilograms of gold which they believe may be part of the stolen bullion, at a house in the Home Counties.

Armed police also raided houses in London and the South-west at dawn yesterday and detained 10 men and two women in connection with the robbery. A police spokesman said that several arrests had been made and charges would be made soon.

Assistant Commissioner John Dellow of Scotland Yard said that about 11 kilograms of gold worth between £60,000 and £80,000 had been found in the grounds of a house in the South-east. Police scientists are testing it to determine whether it is part of the gold stolen from the Brinks-Mat warehouse at Heathrow.

After months of surveillance and inquiry into the Brinks-Mat robbery, police from Scotland Yard several regional crime squads swooped on houses in London, Bath and Bristol.

Mr Dellow said that the operation was continuing. Proper was removed from several addresses.

Armed officers broke down the door of a house at Lansdown, Bath, and arrested a man. At Litton, near Bristol, police closed roads for almost an hour as they raided a large house in the village.

The theft of gold bars, diamonds, travellers cheques and other valuables from the Brinks Mat warehouse was the biggest robbery in Britain.

The gang thought by police to number between three and six, doused warehouse staff with a mixture of petrol and water and threatened to set fire to them if they did not open the vault.

Stepmother of Edward Heath took overdose

Mrs May Heath, the stepmother of Mr Edward Heath, former Conservative Prime Minister, killed herself with a massive drug overdose, an inquest at Broadstairs, Kent, decided yesterday.

Mrs Heath, aged 63, the third wife of Mr William Heath, had lived alone at Vintners House, Francis Road, Broadstairs, since the death of her husband.

Dr Malcolm Farley, a consultant pathologist, told the inquest that he found at least 10 times the toxic dose of an hypnotic sleeping tablet in Mrs Heath's blood and at least 18 times the normal therapeutic dose of sleeping tablets in the stomach contents.

Miss Rebecca Cobb, the coroner, accepted that the cause of death was a drug overdose and recorded a verdict of suicide.

The Times overseas selling prices: Australia \$25; Belgium 8 frs 20c; Canada \$17.75; Canada Post 17c; Czech 200 rubles; Denmark 48 kr; Finland 1000 Mk; France 70 fr; Germany DM 3.50; Greece 250 dr; Holland 4.50; India Rs 100; Ireland £1; Italy 1000 L; Japan 1000 yen; Korea 1000 won; Luxembourg 100 fr; Malaysia 100 ring; Mexico 1000 pesos; New Zealand 1000 shillings; Norway 100 kr; Portugal 100 esc; Singapore 100 dollars; Spain 170 pes; Sweden 100 kronor; Switzerland 100 francs; Taiwan 100 dollars; USA \$1.14; Yugoslavia Din 150.

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Woman in 'Dallas' libel case wanted MP to apologize on his knees

Mrs Hazel Pinder-White told the "Dallas connection" libel case jury yesterday of the sort of apology she initially had in mind from her MP after he had compared her with J R's wife, Sue Ellen.

Mrs Pinder-White said in the High Court she was so upset that she had wanted Mr Jonathan Aitken to announce an apology on his knees in the middle of Viking Bay at Broadstairs, Kent.

Mr Justice Caulefield, who is hearing the case with a jury, observed: "That would have brought the crowds, wouldn't it?"

Mrs Hazel Pinder-White told the jury about the 10 Rolls-Royces she and her husband had at different times in their married life.

But she denied a suggestion by Mr Patrick Milmo, for the defence, that she and her late husband, Charles, campaigned for the Conservative Party in an ostentatious style.

"I take exception to that remark," Mrs Pinder-White, of Broadstairs, Kent, said. "There was nothing ostentatious about my husband and nothing ostentatious about me."

She was being cross-examined by Mr Milmo on the second day of her damages claim against Mr Aitken, Conservative MP for Thanet South.

She claims he libelled her in a newspaper article by comparing her with an adulteress and alcoholic - Sue Ellen, wife of J R Ewing in the Dallas television serial.

Mr Aitken, and the newspaper which he partly owns, the monthly *East Kent Curve*, deny that the article published in February 1981 was libellous.

Mr Milmo suggested to Mrs Pinder-White that her husband, who campaigned on local issues, was a flamboyant figure in public. He asked if Mr Pinder-White campaigned during elections in a white Rolls-Royce.

Mrs Pinder-White, in her mid-fifties, told Mr Justice Caulefield: "During our married life we had 10 Rolls-Royces of various colours at various times. My husband liked the best of everything."

Mr Pinder-White, disagreed with Mr Milmo's suggestion that the article was "a bit of

mucky-taking or a tease" of her husband based on an article about him in another local newspaper which referred to him as "Tiger".

Her husband had campaigned against the disposal of sewage into the local sea. He had written to the Duke of Edinburgh and had received a nice letter back, she said. Mr Pinder-White also used to write to Mrs Thatcher on first-name terms and she wrote back "Dear Charles".

Mrs Pinder-White said she and her husband had portraits of Conservative leaders on the stairs of their home in Harbour street, Broadstairs.

The Dallas episodes shown before the article was published ended with the mystery of "Who shot J R?" Bookmakers were offering odds on the identity of the culprit. Mrs Pinder-White said: "I didn't place a bet. It showed how seriously people take these characters in these stories."

Mr Milmo said the article had the elements of parody, irony and hyperbole and such writing was not to be understood literally. Mrs Pinder-White said: "It is a dreadful character assassination."

She said that if Mr Aitken wanted to compare political life in Thanet with Dallas he should have chosen a councillor rather than a private citizen, her husband, to compare with J R.

She said her husband had been hurt by an earlier article by Mr Aitken but was "too big a

man to show it." Mr Aitken had described Mr Pinder-White in a article as "Harbour Street's self-appointed sanitary inspector."

Mrs Pinder-White said she had been compared with the wife of J R who, at the time, was having an adulterous affair and was never without a glass in his hand. Sue Ellen was also "at the height of her leanness."

Mr Milmo: "Is not Sue Ellen, played by Linda Gray, a very good-looking woman?"

Mrs Pinder-White: "Yes, I don't look at all like her. I can only see a comparison in the way we behaved."

Counsel suggested that, if anything, Mr Aitken's remark was a tribute to her good looks. Mrs Pinder-White disagreed and said she was "not as naive as that."

Mr Milmo: "Do you really think that those words could have been a damaging attack?" Mrs Pinder-White: "I don't think you know how I felt. It was a most disgraceful comparison between two people."

She said that Mr Aitken had visited her and her husband and they had entertained him, but he was not apologetic. "He is a strange man and we did not have much in common," she said.

He had also telephoned her, and she told him she had not only been upset but had been disgusted by the article. He had said: "I thought you would be flattered - Sue Ellen is a very beautiful woman."

Mrs Pinder-White said Mr Aitken had not offered to apologize in print and he was not in the least conciliatory.

Mr Milmo: "Did you say 'I am going to get you for this, Jonathan'?"

Mrs Pinder-White: "I don't say things like that."

An apology written by Mr Aitken in the newspaper the next month was "no apology whatsoever," Mrs Pinder-White said.

Mr Milmo suggested that she wanted some kind of public humiliation of Mr Aitken.

"No," Mrs Pinder-White said. "I am not that sort of person."

Excerpts from Dallas were shown to the jury to help them make their assessment of characters in the soap opera.

The hearing continues today.



Mr Aitken: Thought it was flattering.

Job warning if tobacco tax goes up

By Our Commercial Editor

Rig Budget increases in tobacco taxation would threaten jobs, according to Gallaher, which yesterday reported an overall cigarette sales decline in Britain only just offset, in its own case, by an increase in exports.

A similar warning came from Imperial Tobacco, which pointed out that the jobs threat was heightened by surging tobacco imports and the growth of own-label cigarettes by chains such as Victoria Wine and Spar.

Small British manufacturers such as Manchester Tobacco Company and London Tobacco Company make some own-brand cigarettes, but the main source is West Germany, where there is production over-capacity. Luxembourg is another source.

While well-known brands are selling at £1.20 or more for 20, many own-label cigarettes cost about £1. So far they appear largely to have taken up the share of the market belonging to BAT until it cut back heavily in Britain.

Chic Murray dies

Chic Murray, the Scots comedian, died in Edinburgh yesterday aged 65. He had just returned from a holiday in Tenerife.

The comedian's last television appearance was on the BBC Hogmanay Show and a few weeks earlier he had been a guest on the Jimmy Tarbuck show.

Obituary, page 14

Civil Servants fitter than other groups

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Civil Servants may not be particularly wealthy or wise, but they are an uncommonly healthy lot, according to a report from the Civil Service Medical Advisory Service.

The report, the first published review of the 600,000 Civil Servants' health since 1968, shows that their premature death rate is between only a half and 60 per cent that of other groups of the same age and their sickness absence half of the national rate.

Only six in every 1,000 retire early to health grounds, and even compared with other groups of office workers their death and illness rates are good.

In spite of their good health record at work, however, it appears that Civil Servants do not do markedly better at living on after retirement than most groups - suggesting, perhaps, that they miss the job. Most can expect drawing their inflation-proofed pensions for at least 13 years after retirement.

Lords want maths for all under-16s

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

Schools must be compelled to teach mathematics and science to all pupils aged under 16, integrate computers into the teaching of all subjects, and improve substantially the quality of science tutors.

The recommendations are by the Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology, which has been studying the acute shortage of higher technology skills in British industry. The committee believes it is important for pupils to be given an early appreciation of the new technologies.

It is the third report in a week to highlight the growing skills shortages in this sector. The Lords' committee also recommends the creating of a national Education and Training Board to co-ordinate the

adopted education strategy, and that priority be given to the education of girls in science and technology.

In raising Britain's overall performance in technology it was important to break the stereotype that kept girls out of science and technology subjects in education and then employment.

Investment in education and training was also vital, if either government or industry thought that the nation's economic problems could be solved without spending money, they were deluding themselves. The nation could not afford to invest more.

Education and Training for New Technologies (House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology, Stationery Office, £6).

Girls still being forced into 'women's' jobs

Sex stereotyping by society and careers officers continues to force girls into traditional "women's" jobs, a survey revealed yesterday.

The survey studied the experience of girls during their first year on the Youth Training Scheme. While the scheme was credited as a "worthwhile experience" the survey seemed to indicate that the programme was missing out on "a golden opportunity" to help women break into non-traditional work.

The Class of 84 (National Joint Committee of Working Women's Organizations, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17 1JT; £1 post free).

Woman at work, page 11

Driver killed in Tube crash 'went too fast'

The driver of a London Underground train, killed when it hit a stationary train on December 11, was travelling too fast and failed to obey emergency procedures, a Department of Trade inquiry was told yesterday.

Mr Tim Smewin, in his first official day as a driver, died at Kilburn station, north London.

Major Christopher Holden, who conducted the inquiry, will make a combined report to the Department of Transport on the Kilburn crash and one at Leyton, east London, last August in which the driver also died.



Explorers back from Antarctic

A team of Antarctic adventurers told of their discoveries yesterday on the world's largest unexplored island.

The Joint Services expedition to Brabant Island, in the frozen wastes of the Antarctic peninsula, returned after a year of scientifically cataloguing and exploring the uninhabited island.

The team of 10, led by Commander Chris Furse, of the Royal Navy, from Smeaden, Kent, has spent the past year living under canvas in sub-zero temperatures which fell to -40C.

The group carried out research projects, the most important of which was a study into the effects of long-term exposure to cold. During its year on the island the group faced blizzards, dangerous crevasses and some of the most stormy seas in the world.

Commander Furse, aged 44, said: "We are the first men deliberately to have spent winter in the Antarctic using only tents for protection. We have proved it can be done and hope our achievement will encourage others."



Francois de Gerlache (left), grandson of the island's discoverers, with leader Chris Furse (above) and (top) Jon Beattie, Mike Ringe, Jim Lumsden, Ted Atkins, John Kimbrey and Francois de Gerlache.

Mr Francois de Gerlache, aged 23, from Huisse, Belgium, grandson of the original discoverer of the island, Adrien de Gerlache, said: "I am proud to have followed in my grand-

father's footsteps. I think I have inherited his spirit for adventure."

The team plans to produce a television documentary and a book about the expedition.

Murder trial farmer says police told him to carry gun

From Tim Jones, Bristol

A farmer accused of murdering a neighbour and of trying to kill his wife told his herdsman that the police had unofficially advised him to carry a shotgun while checking his stock at night, a jury at Bristol Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mr John Russell said that Mr Graham Backhouse had told him of the advice on the day a sheep's head was found on a stake in a field with a note "you next" attached to it.

But two detectives who visited Mr Backhouse at Widden Hill Farm, Hornton, near Chipping Sodbury, Avon, strongly denied ever giving such advice. The prosecution claims that Mr Backhouse attempted to murder his wife to claim £100,000 life insurance and that he murdered his neighbour, Mr Colin Bedale-Taylor, aged 65, to throw police off his trail. He has pleaded not guilty.

Mrs Margaret Backhouse, aged 37, was severely injured when a bomb exploded inside the family Volvo car on April 9 last year. Mr Bedale-Taylor died in the Backhouse farmhouse after being shot twice in the chest at close range.

Mr Russell said Mr Backhouse had told him: "Just imagine the consequences if I was down in the yard in the dark and someone called my name and I fired a gun at him."

Det Sergeant Geoffrey Hallett, said he went to the farm with Det Constable Stephen Crook because Mr Backhouse had complained of receiving a threatening letter and telephone calls.

Mr Backhouse is alleged to have invented the campaign of threats against him and his family as part of the plan to murder his wife. Mr Bedale-Taylor was killed because Mr Backhouse needed a scapegoat, the prosecution claims.

Sergeant Hallett said: "He told me that in order to protect himself on these late night

missions into his farm he intended to carry a shotgun."

"I told him that this was illegal and advised him most strongly against carrying a shotgun. If he had shot someone he would be in very serious trouble. He accepted my advice and said he would not carry a shotgun."

He said he had told Mr Backhouse to ensure his vehicles were locked at night and advised him to repair and secure the garage doors.

Cross-examined by Mr Lionel Read, QC, for the defence, he agreed that either he or Mr Backhouse had suggested the possibility of Mrs Backhouse and their two children going away for a few days until the business had blown over but Mr Read suggested that "illegal or not" the advice had been given to Mr Backhouse to carry a shotgun. Sergeant Hallett replied: "I could not condone that at all."

Mr Russell said he first became aware of the alleged threats on the day the sheep's head was found. Mr Backhouse said he had been advised to carry a shotgun but had given the impression he did not intend to do so.

He said Mr Backhouse gave the impression of being very fond of his wife and his children, and his wife gave the impression she was fond of him. As far as he could see they were a happy family.

Medical evidence showed that after the bomb, which contained 4,500 shotgun pellets, exploded, surgeons had to remove metal fragments and foam plastic from Mrs Backhouse's thighs and buttocks. Mr Colin Davidson, a consultant surgeon at Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, said the injuries were "extensive, extremely serious and must have resulted from a major explosion".

The trial continues today.

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Kinnock to table motion of censure

THE ECONOMY

The Opposition is to put down a motion of censure on the Government over its handling of the economy in recent weeks. Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Opposition, announced to Labour cheers and Conservative laughter in the Commons at the end of Prime Minister's question time.

He said that earlier in the day the Opposition had sought a statement from the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the Government's economic policy. That request had been refused.

In view of that (he went on), and the utterly inadequate response on the matter of central importance today, Kinnock's motion is particularly because of the bungling by the Government of its economic policies as evidenced by manufactured and output figures, unemployment figures, interest rate figures, as well as other figures, we shall be putting down a motion censuring the Government for its utter mismanagement.

Question time was dominated by a clash between Mrs Thatcher and Mr Kinnock over the 2 per cent rise in base rates announced the day before, the third rise since January 11.

In beginning it, Mr Kinnock asked: three weeks ago the Government was against the idea of increasing interest rates to defend sterling but they did increase interest rates and it did not work. Two weeks ago the Government spurned the idea of intervening to defend sterling but they did intervene, and it did not work. What is she going to do now? (Laughter)

Mrs Thatcher: I recall Mr Kinnock saying on January 15 that he was absolutely against speculation against the pound, that he thought it was irresponsible and irrational. If that is what he thought then, I hope that he thinks now and that he thinks the action taken to stop it is right and well-judged in the circumstances.

Mr Kinnock: I do think it is irresponsible and irrational, but it is she who believes in the market system, not us.

Her response again today impresses no one at home or abroad. It is she who has surrendered power, making entirely to the whims of the market. The result is chaos, a crisis of confidence and a huge rise in the interest rate burden on business borrowers and home buyers.

Is she going to change her policies in the light of that experience, or is she going to go through the same mixture of panic and paralysis which has brought us to this mess?

Mrs Thatcher: I am not quite sure whether Mr Kinnock is approving

of what we have done or saying we should have done nothing.

The action the Chancellor took was to maintain the financial strategy which has brought inflation lower than any other government has previously and which, in spite of the effects of a coal strike for ten to eleven months, kept the current account in surplus last year.

Mr Kinnock: Her strategy is coming apart at the seams and she knows that very well. We want a real strategy to give growth and recovery properly to our economy. All we are getting from the Government, especially now, is dithering and dodging that can only mean more on the dole and more in debt.

We have got a crisis of confidence not in the country but an absence of confidence in the Government. Is the Government willing to change its policies and will the Prime Minister really act by chucking out the Chancellor?

Mrs Thatcher: The action taken has been such that it imposes financial discipline on all sections of the economy, including the Government.

The gross domestic product is at its highest ever level - I hope Mr Kinnock is pleased about that. The fixed investment across the economy is at its highest ever level. Retail sales are at their highest ever level. Profits are up 20 per cent in the first three quarters of 1984.

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberals (Tweeddale, Exeter and Lauderdale), when the Prime Minister went to recognize the rest of the world does not do what she tells it to do?

Mrs Thatcher: Interest rates in real terms are not as high as they have been in the United States.

Mr Michael Gyles (North West Surrey, C): Although the high interest rates are a worry and a difficulty for industry, nevertheless businesses in Britain will support the Government while it continues to get inflation down and probably sends the Government the message that it must try harder on inflation because that destroys businesses large and small.

Mrs Thatcher: I agree. It is always disappointing to have to raise interest rates, but of course the effect has been to bring inflation down. It was allowed to increase again. Mr Roy Hattersley said in 1978: "In terms of promoting employment opportunities throughout the country, nothing is more important than containing inflation."

Mr John Browne (Winchester, C): The factors affecting sterling at the moment, such as the price of the dollar, the price of oil, the recession and the size of the United States deficit, are completely outside the control of the Government.

Mr John Moxon (Glasgow, Cathcart, Lab): Since the Bank of England is intervening to protect the pound and Mr Lawson has restored minimum lending rate and is prepared to cooperate with other countries to protect the pound, does he still hold to his dogma that free market forces should be allowed to operate?

Mr Lawson: Of course free market forces will operate. It is one of the illusions of the Labour Party that somehow, by a wave of the wand, they can abolish free market forces. He recalled the decision of the finance ministers of the five major industrial countries of the western world in Washington, that if the time came they would be prepared to intervene in a concerted way in foreign exchanges. That was fully in line with the Williamsburg agreement.

Mr Forman's calculation of the effect of interest rates was on the assumption that the present rate remained in force for a full year. That might not be correct.

Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs: Will he take this belated opportunity to remove some of the uncertainties which still prejudice the pound and interest rates? Will he make it clear that he is abandoning the policy of allowing the pound to float free?

Mr Lawson: The policy of the British Government under my predecessor and myself has been that the sterling exchange rate is always taken into account in assessing the correct financial policy at the time. (Opposition laughter)

sterling compared with the dollar. It is vital to stay competitive on wage costs. While our wage costs are rising - and the Opposition supports every single wage claim - wage costs of our competitors are staying stable or decreasing. If the Opposition want to improve the prospects of employment, they must help to get unit wage costs down.

Mr Patrick McNair-Wilson (New Forest, C): In part, sterling's problems stem from uncertainty about oil prices. Since over-production at a time of depressed demand leads to a disorderly market, can she confirm that the Government has reserve powers to both limit production and depletion in the North Sea? Will she consider using these to underpin light crude oil price and help bring stability back?

Mrs Thatcher: The policy we pursue is really the same as the United States pursue in that we do not have reserves to restrict production in the North Sea. We have power to purchase 51 per cent of that production at whatever is the market price. I think we must stick to that.

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberals (Tweeddale, Exeter and Lauderdale): When is the Prime Minister going to recognize the rest of the world does not do what she tells it to do?

Mrs Thatcher: Interest rates in real terms are not as high as they have been in the United States.

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Mr Lawson: The policy of the British Government under my predecessor and myself has been that the sterling exchange rate is always taken into account in assessing the correct financial policy at the time. (Opposition laughter)

DEFENCE

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, defended the cost of the Trident programme in the Commons in spite of laughter from Labour MPs when he stated that the latest estimate of £9.285 billion was based on an established convention indicating he should assume a dollar exchange rate of \$1.38 to the pound. The updated figure was also at average £1984-85 prices.

He said that approximately 55 per cent of the work by value was planned to be undertaken in the United Kingdom. The submarine would be part of the contract they intended to place with Vickers and within that contract the American contribution should be of the order of 10 per cent.

When Mr Michael Heseltine (Leeds West, L) referred to the possibility that the cost of Trident would be spread over many more years perhaps even beyond the life of the missile, Mr Heseltine declared that ministers had given no authority to change existing assumptions. Indeed, he had added new instructions that there would be no change in the assumptions and, subject only to security considerations, if there needed to be changed assumptions, he would report them to the Commons.

Otherwise, the position remained as when Sir John Nott, the former Defence Secretary, first explained it in March 1982. "There will not be a spread of the sort suggested," Mr Heseltine declared.

Mr Heseltine also said he saw no case for changing the conventions upon which previous Governments have worked.

However, (he went on), in view of public interest, I am making available to the Select Committee on Defence and the Public Accounts Committee an indication of the effects of changes in the exchange rate so that those wishing to predict exchange rate changes over the procurement period of the Trident programme will be able to do so at the exchange rate that they consider to be appropriate.

Mr Gary Strong (Edinburgh East, Lab): Will Mr Heseltine admit that that cost is a gross underestimate taking into account the current dollar/sterling exchange rate?

Mr Heseltine: The question is whether Britain needs its own nuclear deterrent and whether the Trident D5 system is the appropriate one. This decision was made by the

Government and it was the decision by which the Government was elected. I do not think it will be difficult to persuade people whether employed or unemployed, that the defence of this country depends on an effective deterrent.

As for the scale and impact of the programme on the defence budget of course, this is a large programme. But when the Trident programme was going through it was a larger proportion of a smaller defence budget, and I do not remember a great outcry about there being no way it could be accommodated within the existing programme.

Mr Anthony Buck (Colchester, North, C): This programme will enable us to retain a capability which successive governments have thought it appropriate for us to have. Over half the money will be spent in the United Kingdom.

Mr Heseltine: An independent British deterrent is an essential part of the strategy that has kept the peace in Europe for a record period in contemporary history. As this policy has worked, and patently is working, we believe it should continue.

Mr David Heathcoat-Amory (Wells, C): Cost can only be assessed in

relation to effectiveness. Is Mr Heseltine concerned that the development of Star Wars defence systems might render Trident ineffective?

Does this not make the case for the development of alternative non-ballistic systems which might even be cheaper?

Mr Heseltine: The timescale in which these questions will be answered provides the answer. The Star Wars project is today a research project which will cover a period of time which will ensure that even if the Americans were to go ahead with it we should have Trident in service long before.

Trident would be playing a critical role in the defence of the West long before the Star Wars programme could be implemented.

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party: Since the Government first took the decision on Trident, the cash cost of the project has virtually doubled, the length of time has been extended twice, and the value of the contracts to British industry has declined as a proportion of the total. This has resulted in the need to look again at the system.

Mr Heseltine: We have increased the defence budget by the order of £3,000 million in real terms and the enhancement is broadly continuing in the future. That has given vastly

extra resources part of which will be spent on Trident.

Sir John Farr (Harborough, C): It would be much easier to support the Trident policy if there were a bigger percentage of home produced content in the weapons.

Mr Heseltine: It would be attractive if, in the concept of a two-way street, there was a larger UK component in the Trident programme. But this was an existing programme.

Mr David Davies, Chief Opposition spokesman on defence and disarmament: In case Mr Heseltine has not heard, the pound is not standing at \$1.38 to the pound but at \$1.10. The figure is £10,000 million and not the £9,200 million he mentions.

Why is Mr Heseltine making himself look so ridiculous by pretending all this money can be found without making substantial and savage cuts in Britain's defences?

Why, apart from perverse vanity is he going ahead with this weapon which no rational person would contemplate using and if it were used would turn this island into rubble.

Mr Heseltine: Are we to gather that the nuclear weapons Mr Davies's Government thought so necessary were somehow usable but that Trident is not?

Legislation to overturn GLC ruling

TRANSPORT

A proposal by the Government to legislate following a High Court decision against it over the payment of grants to London Regional Transport by the Greater London Council was given a hostile reception by Opposition MPs in the Commons.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, who announced the proposal, was accused of "cherry-picking" by Mr Peter Snape, an Opposition spokesman on transport.

Mr Ridley said the court decision had been against his decision last year requiring the GLC to pay £2.3 million in grants to LRT up to the end of this financial year.

The direction had been challenged by the GLC. It was clear from the judgement that the court took a different view of the way the provisions under Section 49 of the London Regional Transport Act should be exercised from that which the Government intended when it took the powers.

The judgement meant that the money available to LRT would be reduced by more than £50 million late in the financial year. A corresponding amount would accrue to the GLC, and this was contrary to the interests of ratepayers and LRT passengers.

He was not confident an appeal would satisfactorily resolve the problem over interpretation of Section 49, and any new direction would be vulnerable to further legal challenge. So the Government considered that only the authority of Parliament could settle the matter. He would shortly introduce new legislation to enable Parliament once and for all to settle the amount of grants to be paid in 1984-85.

Mr Snape said that to use the High Court decision to justify a reduction in grants was a constitutional outrage. Legislation would be strongly opposed by all Labour MPs who believed in the rule of law.

Any principled holder of ministerial office being in contempt for illegality, telling blatant untruths in the House and swindling ratepayers of about £50 million would have apologised and tendered his resignation.

Mr Richard Tait (Surrey, C): This is just a last gasp attempt by the moribund GLC before abolition to frustrate the intention of this House.

Mr Ridley: I agree. We are talking about large sums of money. It would be quite improper if this money which has been taken from the ratepayers for one purpose were to be used for another.

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New moves to stop City fraud

THE CITY

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, announced in the Commons the Government's intention to establish a new regulatory framework and a new institutional structure for the financial services industry. They were set out in a White Paper, *Financial Services in the United Kingdom: A New Framework for Investment*.

He indicated that legislation was planned for the 1985-86 parliamentary session.

He said in a statement, a prerequisite for an internationally competitive financial industry is a clear regulatory framework within which practitioners and customers can deal with confidence and which safeguards the interests of investors.

This regulatory framework must be capable of adjusting to changes in the shape of the markets, and of accommodating rather than stifling innovation.

The proposals set out in the White Paper are designed to achieve this by assuring confidence, deter fraud and malpractice, improve disclosures and lay down the principles on which business should be conducted.

The regulatory framework will be based on new and comprehensive definitions of investment and of investment business. It will be an offence to carry on an investment business in the United Kingdom without authorisation.

To obtain such authorisation, an investment business will have to show it is fit and proper and will be required to observe detailed rules for the conduct of business based on principles to be set out in the legislation. Each of these rules will be subject to sanctions up to and including the withdrawal of the authorisation to trade.

There will be a number of important further changes. I intend to rationalise and update the legal provisions dealing with documents and the advertising of investments, first to make it clear what must be disclosed and second to establish standard provisions on civil and criminal liability for omissions and mistakes.

I also propose to liberalise some restrictions on the unit trust industry and enable it, subject to appropriate safeguards, to offer a greater variety of schemes to the public.

Commissions and other payments to intermediaries will be disclosed. As far as possible, the marketing of life assurance contracts will be treated in a manner similar to the marketing of other investment products.

The institutional structure designed to implement the new regulatory framework is based on my belief that the crucial tasks of

authorising investment businesses and keeping high standards of business conduct among those so authorised can be discharged much more effectively by those closest to the market - practitioners and their customers - rather than by government. Malpractices can be identified and dealt with more quickly by these people than by government regulators.

I therefore intend to build upon what is best in self-regulation. I shall propose legislation to confer on the Secretary of State the necessary powers to grant authorisation to investment businesses; but also to enable him to delegate regulatory responsibility, including the power of authorisation, to one or more bodies composed both of those who provide and those who use financial services.

Before doing so I shall be required to be satisfied on the composition, constitution and proposed rules of these bodies and I will have power to withdraw delegated powers in the event that such a body fails to continue to meet the criteria. Steps are already in train to set up the bodies.

I hope that those concerned in the financial services will press ahead so

the issue by making no substantial change in enforcement?

Mr Tebbit: There have been major difficulties concerning enforcement of the existing rules in the City. The major step forward is to ensure that nobody can trade in an investment business without authorisation. That is a step towards the prevention rather than the prosecution of fraud.

Mr Peter Horden (Horsham, C): Would he confirm that the Government's major priority is the protection of the public?

Mr Tebbit: The key in all this is the protection of the public. If the City is not seen to be a clean place in which to operate, it will lose business and thereby gradually those who are the practitioners will be the losers as well.

Mr Ian Wrigglesworth (Stockton South, SDP): Why has he not accepted representations that there should be a new independent body regulating the City? At a time when we are getting more and more financial conglomerates would this not make greater sense? Otherwise his proposals will look like a limp hand in a velvet glove.

Mr Tebbit: It may be that as time goes on there will be a change of view about this and the two bodies could be merged. If that was the view that emerged, I would not oppose it.

Equally, I do not think it would be appropriate at this stage for me to try to force down the necks of those who provide and use the services, a solution that they do not want.

Mr John Ryman (Blyth Valley, Lab): Is it not a scandal that for years crooks have been getting away with it in the City, despite the existence of a regulatory framework in cases that cry out for prosecution?

As this system must take a long time to set up, in the meantime many serious criminal offences will be committed in the City of London without fear of prosecution.

Mr Tebbit: I share his concern about offences committed and prosecution not carried through to conviction. Many such frauds involve persons overseas who are not unduly anxious to come to the Old Bailey and offer evidence. In many cases of great complexity there have been difficulties in properly setting out evidence in a way jurors fully understand.

I am sure under the new system where the rules for the conduct of business will be much clearer and clearer, it will not only be easier to see at an earlier stage those who have offended and prohibit them from trading, but those who although not now regarded as criminals, are clearly in contradiction to the code under which business should be carried out in the City.

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Report soon on European fighter plane

The feasibility study on the European fighter aircraft was continuing and the Government expected to receive reports on the outcome of the industrial aspects of the study soon, Mr Adam Butler, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, stated during Commons questions.

He said discussions were also proceeding at Government level on a range of activities affecting the programme. Defence ministers would meet in May to review the latest position.

He said later that anyone with experience of the project would know that difficulties had arisen and compromises had been necessary. It may be that there would be considerable argument before the next stage could be entered into. But the Secretary of State for Defence and the Government intended to make this collaborative project work.

If we can (he said) it will be to the advantage of our air force and our industry.

Peers took the unusual step of silencing one of their members during question time in the House of Lords when Lord Hatch of Lusby (Lab) was voted down in a division on the question of Lord Trefgarne, Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, about the legal rights of Servicemen guarding nuclear or non-nuclear installations.

Lord Hatch had asked Lord Trefgarne if he would consider the right to shoot unnamed protesters at either nuclear or non-nuclear sites; were they covered by the Visiting Forces Act or the Criminal Law Act 1967?

Lord Trefgarne had replied that the question of shooting protesters depended precisely upon what they were doing.

Lord Hatch then tried to put a second question but was drowned by shouts of "Order, order" from the Conservative benches. When he tried to repeat it he was again unable to make his voice heard over the shouts of "Order, order".

The Earl of Cork and Orrery (C) then moved: That the noble Lord be no longer heard. Lord Halsall of St Marylebone, Lord Chancellor, called a division on the motion which was carried by 102 votes to 59 - majority 43. Lord Hatch of Lusby resumed his seat. The House moved on to the next question.

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National space centre to be set up as £7m goes into European projects

By Bill Johnston
Technology Correspondent

The fragmented space research effort in Britain is to be co-ordinated by a National Space Centre, probably housed at Farnborough, Hampshire, and a British commitment to spend about £7 million in the next two years on feasibility studies on European space projects.

Details were disclosed yesterday as Britain's space ministers made their way to Rome for a conference on European space policy. One of the principal projects to be discussed at the two-day ministerial conference attended by delegates from European countries will be the proposed European space platform, part of the American space station project.

MAIN SPACE PROJECTS		
Project	Cost	Achievements
Agency	£1.5-2.0m	150 man-days in space
Space Shuttle	£1.5-2.0m	150 man-days in space
US Shuttle	£1.5-2.0m	150 man-days in space
Space Station	£1.5-2.0m	150 man-days in space
Space Shuttle	£1.5-2.0m	150 man-days in space

Source: British Aerospace

The British space centre is to assist in analysing any contribution Britain makes to either the American or the European effort. The details were outlined by the minister in charge of space, Mr Geoffrey Pattie, before his departure for Rome.

"The responsibility for space has been scattered around government departments, academic institutions and industry and there is clearly a need for a much sharper focus

for Britain's space effort", he said.

"We have been appraising the direction of British space policy in light of the new proposals for the European Space Agency's long-term programme and the invitation from President Reagan to participate in their manned space station to be launched in 1992."

British ministers will recommend the European response positively to the American invitation. Space experts in Britain are keen on a space platform which will be part of the manned space station project.

The platform itself will be unmanned but can be serviced by the space shuttle. It will be a laboratory and ideal as a space observatory.

Moscow's overture spurned by Peking

From Mary Lee
Peking

China said yesterday that a world communist conference, as proposed by the Soviet Union recently, would only "exacerbate the differences and widen the split" in the international communist movement and "would do nothing to further world peace."

The comment came from a spokesman for the Communist Party Central Committee. Mr Wu Xingtang, at a press conference called to announce the party's attendance at the French Communist Party's 25th congress on February 6 to 10.

The Chinese party's sharp rejection of the Soviet proposal puts into perspective the freeze in party-to-party relations which contrasts with the closer economic ties between the two countries, since the visit of the First Soviet Deputy Premier Mr Ivan Arkhipov, last December.

In reply to questions, Mr Wu repeatedly said: "This has not been considered", but added that his party was willing to establish, restore and develop relations with any communist party in the world on the basis of the four principles of independence, complete equality, mutual respect and non-interference in each other's affairs."

Mr Wu also said his party was ready "at any point to exchange views on those issues of common concern bilaterally."

The Chinese party will send Mr Ni Zhifu, a Politburo member, and Mr Li Shuzhen of the International Liaison Department to the French party congress. Hanoi rebuffed, page 9



Tuning up: Away from the pressures of Parliament, Mr Edward Heath preparing with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra yesterday for a series of concerts in Israel.

Lange asks US for substitute warship

Wellington (AFP) — The United States has been asked to send a substitute warship to New Zealand because Washington has failed to confirm that the vessel proposed for a March visit is not nuclear-armed, a New Zealand Government source said yesterday.

The source said Mr David Lange, the New Zealand Prime Minister, had asked the US ambassador for a substitute vessel to make a port visit, planned at the end of the Sea Eagle exercise of the Anzous pact nations (Australia, New Zealand and United States) in March.

Source here said New Zealand wanted an Oliver Hazard Perry class guided-missile frigate to make the visit, instead of a nuclear-capable warship nominated by the United States. Although the vessel has not been specifically named, it is understood to be capable of using nuclear weapons.

The exercise, involving warships from all three countries, will be held off the Queensland coast of Australia from late February to early March.

Mr Lange said on Monday that New Zealand intelligence had been unable to determine whether the warship nominated by the United States would be carrying nuclear arms. The issue of the visit was close to a solution, he added.

It is understood that New Zealand expects a response from Washington in the next few days on whether an alternative vessel might make the visit.

Guerrillas blast hospital in Kabul

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Afghan Mujahidin guerrillas last week bombed a military hospital in the centre of Kabul, killing three Afghan doctors and one other person, according to western diplomats here.

They said the bomb exploded in the outpatient department of the hospital in the Meccarayan district of the capital where many Soviet and other east European advisers live. The hospital was described by the diplomats as Soviet-run, and administered by the academy of sciences of the armed forces.

One embassy here speculated that the likely target was the many Soviet soldiers treated by the hospital after being wounded in action against the guerrillas. Soviet unpopularity in the district is shown by another incident reported by diplomats in which two Russian women were stoned by an angry crowd last month.

Guerrilla activity, however, is at a low ebb because of an exceptionally bitter winter and heavier than usual snowfalls.

The Western sources also report that the Russians are still reinforcing Paktia province in the east in an apparent effort to block the Mujahidin supply routes from Pakistan. The Afghan Government has complained to Pakistan about shots being fired from across the border, preventing helicopters landing with supplies at Baktot, a border town in Konar province.

One source said this confirmed reports that the town was cut off by guerrillas, and could only be supplied by air.

Legal aid reforms proposed

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A package of reforms to end the hardships of the present legal aid scheme, including mandatory legal aid in the crown courts and measures to help the "middle income" litigant, are put to the Lord Chancellor in a report published yesterday.

The report, by the Lord Chancellor's legal aid advisory committee, contains the findings of a large-scale review of the financial and other criteria on which legal aid is now granted.

It outlines a number of measures to bring the scheme, now costing £235 million a year, up to date. It was founded about 40 years ago.

More people of "small and moderate means" now become involved in civil litigation, it says. That is not because legal aid is available, but because Parliament has created new rights and to assert or defend them often involves litigation or the threat of it.

In the criminal sphere the courts have sustained "a steady increasing burden of business" and the chance of a citizen coming into contact with the criminal justice system as a defendant has risen with the growth of new offences, particularly in the road traffic area, the report says.

The costs of legal aid have risen but that is because the

system of justice itself is expensive, the report says. Dr Ronald Tress, chairman of the committee until the end of last year and director of the Leverhulme Trust, said: "If legal aid expenditure needs to be contained, the first priority should not be restrictions on legal aid eligibility or scope but measures directed at the root cause of the problem, namely the expense of obtaining justice through the courts."

It is unacceptable, the report adds, for the price of an expensive system of justice to be the restriction of eligibility for legal aid and thus of effective access to that system.

Among reforms called for by the committee are, in the criminal sphere, mandatory legal aid for crown court trials and for committals for sentence. In theory, the report says, legal aid is available for any criminal offence. In practice fewer than one in five defendants receives it. Most of those are in magistrates' courts.

In the magistrates' courts, the discretionary criteria for granting aid should be improved, the report says, and the grant become mandatory — subject to means testing — for certain specified offences such as burglary.

In civil legal aid, the report calls for a series of changes "as a matter of urgency" to

eliminate the most frequent instances of hardship. Capital should still be assessed, but steps should be taken to improve the position of people, often retired, who depend on income from capital for day-to-day living.

Published with the report is one on legal aid by the Law Society, which runs the scheme. The society calls in particular for legal aid to be extended to proceedings before social security commissioners and for representation before immigration appeals.

34th legal aid annual reports. (Stationery Office, £14)

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Man killed wife then himself

A former policeman strangled his wife and then hanged himself because he felt he was a failure, an inquest was told yesterday.

Derek Fryer, aged 58, a deputy churchwarden and school caretaker, killed his wife Ruth with his hands the inquest at Walthamstow, north-east London was told. Mrs Fryer, aged 60, also a former police officer, had tried to fight him off and scratched his face, a post mortem examination showed.

He covered her body with a sheet and went to his lock-up garage where he hanged himself from a cord fixed to the rafters. Their bodies were found on December 21. Mr Fryer was due to return to hospital the following day for psychiatric treatment.

The couple's son-in-law Mr Nick Rhodes, a local government officer, discovered them when he went to their home in Sharnall Street, Walthamstow, with a local vicar. Mr Rhodes said that Mr Fryer had a history of depression but Mrs Fryer always thought she could cope.

Dr Harold Price, the coroner said: "In normal health Mr Fryer was a good man and very religious." Verdicts were recorded that Mrs Fryer was unlawfully killed and Mr Fryer killed himself while the balance of mind was disturbed.

Watches were cheap imitations

Customers of Lebanon jewellers, Brompton Road, central London, paid up to £5,000 for cheap copies of expensive brand name watches. Southwark Crown Court was told yesterday.

The shop owners, Giltmark Ltd, were prosecuted by Westminster City Council after a complaint by Omega. They admitted seven charges of offering to supply watches contrary to the Trade Descriptions Act and one charge of supplying with a false description written on an invoice.

They also asked for 77 similar offences to be taken into consideration. The shop was fined £24,000 and ordered to pay £2,000 prosecution costs.

£10,000 ivory madonna stolen

A fourteenth century ivory sculpture of the Madonna and child worth at least £10,000 was stolen from Tewkesbury Abbey, Gloucestershire on Monday night.

The statue belongs to the Dean and chapter of Gloucester Cathedral.

Shotgun fine

The director of the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, Professor Michael Jaffe, aged 61, of Grove Lodge, 2, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, was fined £50 yesterday after admitting having a shotgun without a licence.

Lady Head in fall

Lady (Dorothy) Head, aged 77, widow of Lord Head, the former Conservative Cabinet minister, was "satisfactory" in Odstock Hospital, Salisbury, Wiltshire, yesterday, after she slipped and cracked her hip disturbing an intruder at her home.

Murder charge

John Kearney, aged 28, of Gordon Road, South Woodford, northeast London, was remanded in custody until Friday when he appeared before Kent magistrates yesterday, charged with the murder of Mr Thomas Cousins, a jeweller, during a raid on his shop in Canterbury last Friday.

MPs oppose oil well plan

Two MPs, including Mr David Howell, the former Conservative minister for energy will be among witnesses who will speak against a plan to drill for oil near a Surrey village.

An inquiry into the scheme by Conoco, the American oil

company opened yesterday at Ash in Surrey.

The oil company wants to drill an exploratory well in Highfield Copse in the village of Normandy near by, but hundreds of residents living in the area fear that the scheme could lead to a massive oilfield.

YOUR LIFE COVER			
Monthly Contribution	Male Age	Guaranteed Life Cover	Life cover age 65
£10	18	£19,652	£38,450/£259,590
	35	£9,699	£13,271/£40,367
	49	£4,702	£4,973/£8,929
£15	18	£30,105	£58,902/£397,674
	35	£14,858	£20,329/£61,746
	49	£7,203	£7,618/£12,299
£20	18	£40,557	£79,353/£535,747
	35	£20,017	£27,387/£85,185
	49	£9,704	£10,263/£15,569
£25	18	£51,010	£99,806/£673,832
	35	£25,176	£34,446/£104,625
	49	£12,205	£12,908/£20,840
£30	18	£61,463	£119,259/£807,769
	35	£30,335	£41,505/£126,064
	49	£14,706	£15,553/£25,110

YOUR CASH VALUE			
Monthly Contribution	Male Age	Cash Value age 65	14.4% growth
£10	18	£19,517	£132,364
	35	£5,785	£17,784
	49	£1,465	£2,429
£15	18	£29,901	£202,795
	35	£8,863	£27,244
	49	£2,245	£3,722
£20	18	£40,281	£273,193
	35	£11,940	£36,704
	49	£3,024	£5,014
£25	18	£50,666	£343,625
	35	£15,018	£46,165
	49	£3,804	£5,306
£30	18	£61,051	£424,897
	35	£18,095	£58,625
	49	£4,583	£7,598

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First Name(s)

Address

Town

County Postcode

Male Female Date of Birth DAY MONTH YEAR

Height ft ins Weight st lbs

Occupation

Broker's name (if any)

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A. Has either of your parents died under the age of 60, other than by accidental death? YES NO

B. Do you intend to fly other than as a fare paying passenger OR do you engage in any hazardous sports or occupation? YES NO

C. Have you had any medical or surgical attention at any time including treatment for mental or nervous disorders, other than for minor ailments? YES NO

IF ALL 'NO' BOXES TICKED: Your acceptance is guaranteed without a medical, provided you are under 50, and your height and weight are satisfactory.

IF ONE OR MORE 'YES' BOXES TICKED: No need to worry. Please tell us, on a separate sheet, as much detail as you can. In many cases, this will be sufficient, although we reserve the right to decline your application.

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Austrian defence chief keeps post but says sorry for greeting Nazi

From Our Correspondent, Vienna

Herr Friedhelm Frischenschlager, the Austrian Defence Minister, has apologized for welcoming the former Nazi SS officer Walter Reder in his return from Italy but will not resign. Chancellor Fred Sinowatz announced yesterday.

Herr Frischenschlager, who caused a storm of protest when he shook hands with Reder, was recalled from an official visit to Egypt to explain his behaviour at a three-hour Cabinet meeting.

At a press conference afterwards Dr Sinowatz insisted that the Defence Minister still enjoyed the confidence of the Government. He denied that the decision to keep Herr Frischenschlager was the result of the threat by Herr Norbert Steier, Vice-Chancellor and leader of the Liberal Party, to pull his party out of the

Government if the minister was forced to resign.

Should the Minister lose Friday's confidence motion in the Austrian Parliament and so resign, Dr Sinowatz declared that he would resign as well.

Herr Helmut Zilk the Socialist mayor of Vienna, and one of the more influential figures in the party, defied Dr Sinowatz by repeating calls for the Minister's dismissal yesterday.

Herr Frischenschlager in a statement read to reporters by the Chancellor, said: "I have used the last few days to consider my position with regard to the convicted war criminal Walter Reder and I admit that I made a mistake."

He said nothing could have been further from his mind than to give a convicted war criminal the impression of an official or

military welcome. Stressing his faith in Austria's democratic system of government, the minister said he regretted the way in which what he called an "essentially humanitarian duty" had been overshadowed by memories of Reder's war crimes.

The Austrian Army had discharged only a technical duty in flying Reder to Baden near Vienna, and his own presence with him was in a purely personal capacity.

"I am sorry for my erroneous assessment and I can only regret it to you, Mr Chancellor, and to the entire public."

Dr Sinowatz, who had called Herr Frischenschlager's conduct "a serious political error", said there was no doubt about the minister's democratic attitude.

He added that all the ministers attending yesterday's Cabinet session accepted Herr Frischenschlager's apology.

But the Opposition People's Party yesterday renewed its demands for the minister's resignation, although one of their MPs from Carinthia, a part of southern Austria traditionally known for its right-wing sympathies, said the local party organization was exploring means of employing Reder on his release.

The union of Austrian soldiers, however, in a terse press statement issued yesterday, demanded that Reder, who is at present in a military hospital in Baden, be removed to a civilian hospital where he can be looked after by the Red Cross rather than the Austrian Army Medical Corps.

Some of the world's most influential Jews were in the capital for a conference of the World Jewish Congress and Sinowatz had to apologize personally to the Congress.

Leading article, letters, page 13

Handshake with fugitive threatens minister's job

From John Earle, Rome

President Pertini of Italy is reported to have demanded the resignation of his Labour Minister, who shook hands and chatted with a suspected terrorist.

The text of his private letter to the Prime Minister, Signor Bettino Craxi, remains unpublished, but there is widespread speculation that it calls for the removal of the socialist Minister, Signor Gianni De Michelis.

Whether a minister should chat with a man who has fled his country's justice is thus at the centre of a dispute between Italy's head of state and head of government.

In Paris on January 5, Signor De Michelis was buttonhole

d on a visit to an exhibition by Signor Oreste Scalzone, a left-wing extremist, who has sought refuge in France from a 28-year jail sentence imposed by an Italian court.

Remarks were exchanged, though reports differ as to the length and depth of their conversation.

When the conversation became known, Signor De Michelis was able to convince Signor Craxi that it was of little substance.

President Pertini thought differently, and wrote Signor Craxi the letter.

Since the 1970s, successive Italian governments have maintained that the French authorities are too open-handed in allowing refuge to wanted men.

Harvest fails in Ethiopia

Food aid must rise fourfold

From Paul Vallety, Addis Ababa

More than 30 per cent of Ethiopia's last harvest was lost and in the worst hit areas 80 per cent of the crops failed, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) says.

Foreign aid will have to be 400 per cent higher this year than last if about seven million Ethiopian peasants are not to starve, according to the report, to be considered by a meeting of donors in Rome today.

Senior civil servants from donor countries and officials of the main relief agencies will attend the meeting, called by Ethiopia, to present its "shopping list" for this year's aid.

Over the country as a whole, including those parts of Eritrea and Tigre controlled by rebel forces, the report concludes that the harvest was 32 per cent below that of a normal year. In some areas the harvest is 60 or 70 per cent down and in the worst cases a mere 20 per cent of an average year.

The reduction means a shortfall of between 1.7 million and 2 million tons. "This may be roughly equivalent to the ordinary consumption of between 6.5 million and 8

million persons," the report says. To import enough food to fill that gap donor countries would need to pledge four times the amounts offered in 1984 - most of which has not, in any case, arrived in Ethiopia yet.

The Ethiopians will be asking today's conference for a number of measures: Accelerated delivery of grain already pledged and promises of more grain; help in financing port expenses; prolonging the stay of foreign aircraft and medical teams; contributions of grain to a buffer stock; provision of more lorries and spare parts; and help

with the controversial resettlement scheme.

● **NAIROBI:** Twenty-one drought-affected countries in Africa will need 6.6 million tons of food aid in the 1984/85 season - twice as much as they received in 1983/84 - the FAO says in an overall assessment of the African food situation (Charles Harrison writes).

Total pledges of food aid for the current year are still 2.2 million tons short of the FAO's estimate of needs and less than half of the pledge aid has so far been delivered, the report says.

Hope that hurts, page 12

proceeds will go to the Ethiopian Famine Appeal.

The project is the brainchild of Rod Cousins, managing director of Quicksilver, and the 10-game cassette will sell for £2.99. Tapes are being produced for both the Spectrum and the Commodore 64, the two most popular home microcomputers, and both will include music from Bank Aid's record.

All the leading games software houses have combined to produce a pack of 10 best-selling computer games and all the



Honorary turban: Mr Rajiv Gandhi and his wife, Sonia, with Sikh folk dancers at Republic Day festivities in Delhi.

Polls show waning enthusiasm for Gandhi

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

The voters of India - at least in those five constituencies which missed out on the general election and went to the polls on Monday - seem to be showing a reluctance to continue the wholehearted endorsement of the Government of Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

The euphoric enthusiasm for the new Prime Minister at Christmas has been scaled down by the voters whose ballots were counted yesterday, and the results may be a depressing omen for the state legislature elections which will take place in the first week of March.

The voters of Chail, a mountain resort in

Uttar Pradesh, appeared to be making amends to Chowdhury Charan Singh whose Dalit Mazdoor Kisan Party was almost annihilated in December. The DMKP candidate was well ahead as the count progressed late last night.

In the southern state of Andhra Pradesh the voters again turned away from Mr Gandhi's Congress Party. In December, the local regional party, Telegu Desam, led by the former film star Chief Minister, Mr N. T. Rama Rao, became the largest single opposition party in Parliament. Yesterday, the voters added another Telegu Desam member from the Srikakulam constituency. He beat his Congress rival by over

100,000 votes.

In a second Andhra constituency, the Telegu Desam candidate was also ahead of his Congress rival last night by more than 100,000 votes.

In Madras, the voters appear also to have wanted to pull the rug from under Congress and their allies. The candidate of the rival Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Party was in the lead as votes were being counted.

But in the city of Bhopal, in Madhya Pradesh, where the earlier election was put off after the gas tragedy, the voters appear not to be blaming the Congress Govern-

Israel offers to house Palestinians

From Christopher Walker, Beersheba

Israel has proposed to Egypt that 500 Palestinian refugee families living in Egyptian territory be allowed to return to the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip to be reunited with relatives and friends left behind in 1982.

Israeli sources say some 6,000 Palestinians would be involved. The transfer is necessary because the border town of Rafah was divided at the time of Israel's withdrawal from Sinai.

The proposal was raised during negotiations between Israel and Egypt which resumed in Beersheba with US participation this week after nearly two years. The talks, which ended last night, concentrated on the disputed desert strip at Taba.

It is understood that Israel is looking for about \$7 million (£6.3 million) in compensation from Egypt to rehouse the refugees.

The Palestinians have been pressing for more than two years about their anomalous situation, which has not only split families but also deprived many of work.

A joint communique last night said Egypt had responded favourably to the request, which are to be discussed between the two sides soon.

Death demand for priest's killer

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

A Polish state prosecutor yesterday demanded the death sentence for Grzegorz Piotrowski, a secret police officer, for killing Father Jerzy Popieluszko "in cold blood, with utmost cruelty and exceptional ruthlessness" and called for 25-year jail terms for the three other agents involved in the murder.

Piotrowski heard the demand in silence, his face bleached. When Leszek Pietrasinski, the prosecutor, described him as a "cold, calculating, merciless murderer", it seemed as if he would explode with anger and in one of the recesses he suffered a spell of dizziness, but otherwise the former captain, the first secret policeman in the Soviet Bloc to face such a public trial, held his emotions in check.

Piotrowski attempted to project himself during the trial as a sensitive person with a sense of responsibility for his subordinates, said the state prosecutor. "But let others judge him morally."

Mr Pietrasinski managed to underscore in his summing up speech two points that the Jaruzelski leadership wanted to make for the benefit of those who have been following the trial in Moscow.

First, Father Popieluszko, an outspoken champion of Solidarity, had himself been acting

illegally before he was murdered. Second, the trial had found no evidence of a top level conspiracy against General Jaruzelski, and if there were masterminds behind the Popieluszko murder they were not in the Interior Ministry.

Thus, while the prosecution demand will probably find popular support in Poland it is not entirely free of a bitter political aftertaste.

Father Popieluszko "was filled with hatred for socialist Poland", the prosecutor said. "In his sermons he spoke of struggle against our system. He called for unrest. He mocked our authorities. He felt victim of the defendants who, just like him, felt they could act above the law."

He made an astonishing equation between the victim and his murderers. "They were extremists just as he was an extremist."

Mr Pietrasinski argued that there were no men in high places, none, at any rate, that were unmasked by trial testimony, no masterminds and no conspirators. The highest the conspiracy went was Adam Pietruszka, aged 47, the deputy director of the secret police church monitoring department.

Though charged only with complicity, rather than direct participation in the murder, the

prosecutor demanded a 25-year jail term for him - the maximum imprisonment under Polish law - because he must take a large slice of blame for the killing.

The Interior Ministry, which oversees the secret police, was given a clean bill of health by the prosecutor, despite the writer of suspicion that surrounds a number of officers.

The initial prosecution speech was delivered by Mr Zygmunt Kolacki, the Torun prosecutor, who catalogued the facts of the crime.

Mr Pietrasinski, from Warsaw and obviously attuned to the expectations of the authorities, then took over the prosecution presentation. The first half was an attack on the four accused. After the recess, he then turned on Father Popieluszko and ended with the demand for the severest possible penalty for Piotrowski.

Today the lawyers representing the Popieluszko family and Mr Waldemar Chrostowski, the priest's driver, will exercise their rights as auxiliary prosecutors to make their sentencing demands.

Sentencing is expected next week.

In Poland, civilians sentenced to death are taken to Gdansk and hanged. Soldiers are shot.

Gap found in White House security

Washington - The arrest of an intruder in the White House has shown that, despite massive security, it is as easy to gain access there as it was for Michael Fagan to get into Buckingham Palace (Nicholas Ashford writes).

Mr Robert Latta, a water meter reader from Denver, Colorado, inquired at the White House on January 20 about guided tours and was told there were none that day. But he spotted a Marine band marching through another entrance and followed them into the White House.

Secret Service men found him sitting at Mr Reagan's dining table on the second floor. He has been charged with unlawful entry and released on \$1,000 bail.

Lebanese pound goes on falling

Beirut (Reuters) - The Lebanese pound renewed its record-breaking plunge yesterday, hours after the Government announced measures to bolster the economy and stabilize the currency.

The Prime Minister, Mr Rashid Karami, flew to Damascus for talks with President Assad on the economic crisis as the pound fell to between 11.70 and 11.80 to the dollar, well below Monday's 10.60 to 10.70 mark.

Unity search in Strasbourg

Brussels - Foreign Ministers and representatives of all but two of the 21 countries in the Council of Europe met in Strasbourg yesterday for a first attempt to frame a united West European position on world problems (Ian Murray writes).

The meeting, called by Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, was devoted mainly to East-West relations, the Middle East and Latin America.

Onassis baby

Paris (Reuters) - Christina Onassis, the 34-year-old Greek shipping heiress, gave birth to her first child, a girl, in the American Hospital here. She married a French businessman, M Thierry Roussel, her fourth husband, last March.

Cell suicide

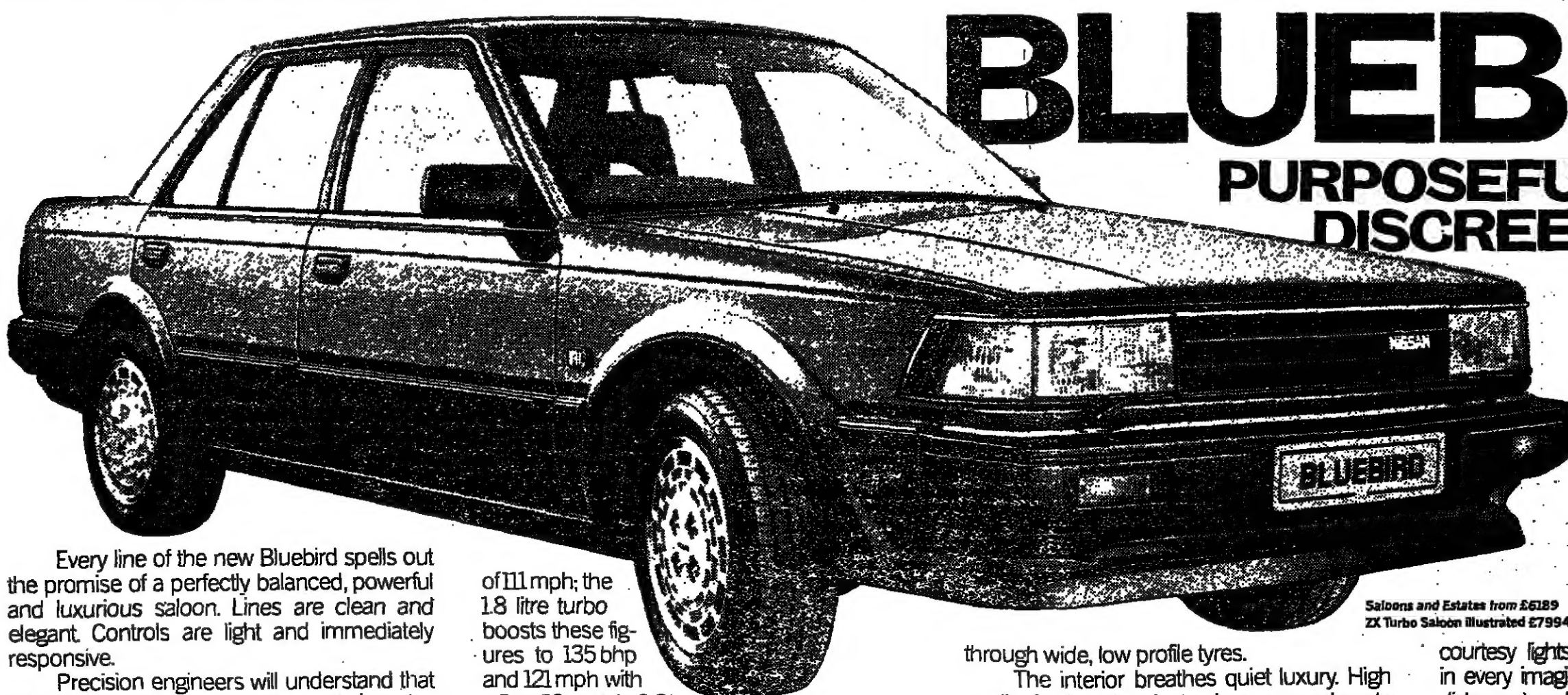
Dusseldorf (Reuters) - Dieter Engelbrecht, the 46-year-old West German millionaire sentenced to 10 years' jail on Monday for raping and torturing his children's teenage nanny, hanged himself in his prison cell here yesterday.

Cave arsenal

Ankara - Turkish troops discovered a big arms cache, presumed to be hidden by Kurdish guerrillas, at a cave near Cukurca on the Iraq border, martial law authorities announced.

Herpes pill

New York (Reuters) - The US Food and Drug Administration has approved the first capsules to be taken on prescription for treatment of genital herpes.



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Penniless EEC in dire need of cash

from Ian Murray
Brussels

The British House of Commons is likely to be asked again later this year to approve another loan for the EEC to help the Community pay its way out of trouble.

Foreign minister, meeting in Brussels yesterday, had to concentrate their minds on the fact that the Community has no budget for this year and that none of its problems can be properly sorted out until it has one.

Britain has always said that the best way out of the mess would be to increase contributions to the community from next October. But West Germany and Holland are so adamantly opposed to this idea that there seems no way out if Britain does not agree to a new intergovernmental agreement to find necessary money.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, said after yesterday's meeting: "We can't exclude any possibility of bringing these matters to a conclusion."

At the same time he rejected utterly any prospect of surrendering Britain's right to a £600 million reduction in its contributions this year. What he does seem prepared to consider is a second loan to meet the bills this year and to pay the way for enlargement with Spain and Portugal from the start of next year.

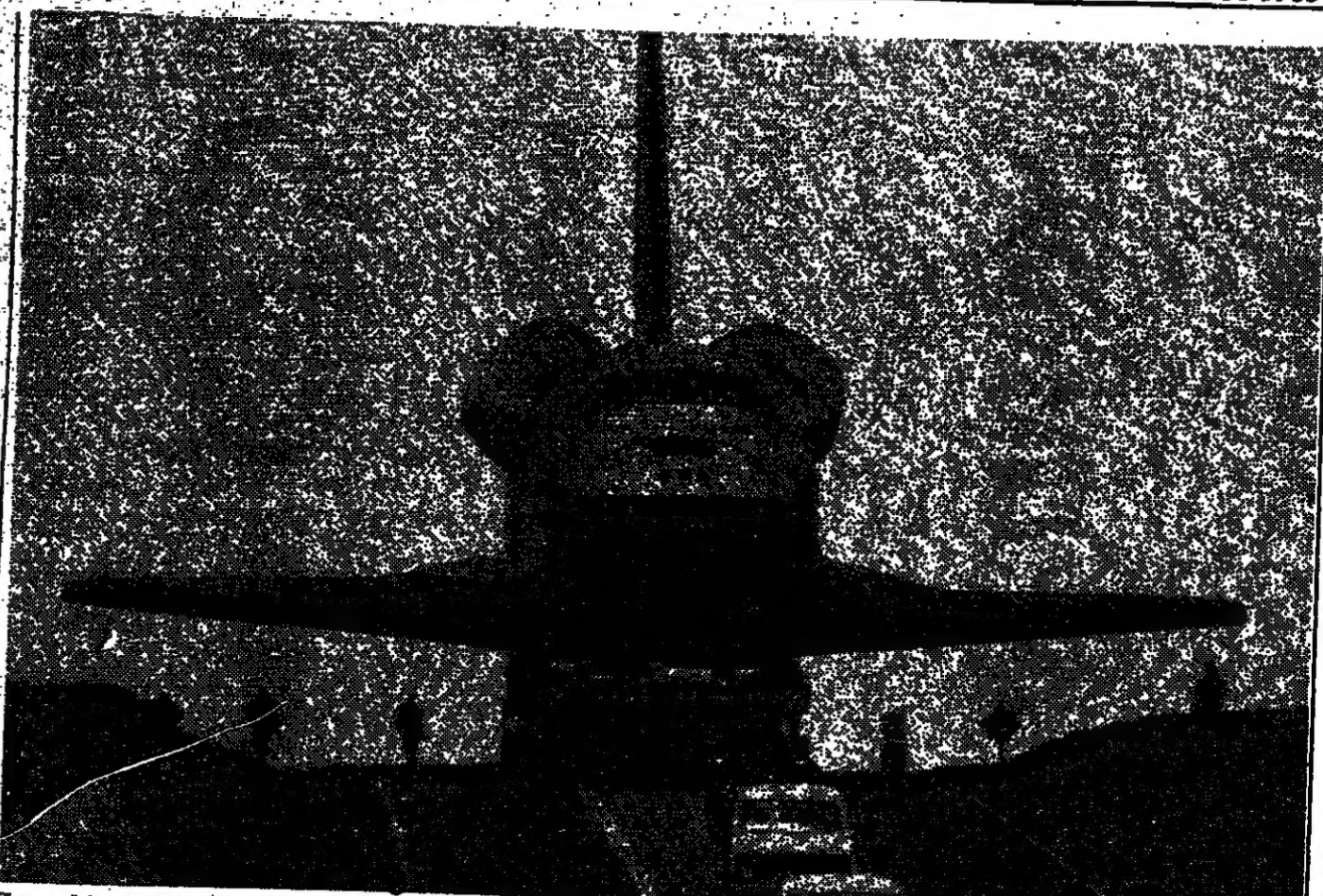
The council was warned by Mr. Henning Christopherson, the Budget Commissioner, that agricultural spending this year was likely to be around £1,200 million more than the Community could afford at the moment. And this is before any of the new season's price rises, which are due to be proposed by the Commission today.

The farm price package is expected to be tough, with cuts of 3.6 per cent in the cereals sector and 1.5 per cent increase for dairy farmers, who this year have had incomes slashed by the quota scheme and who had no rise at all last year.

But even if the proposals add very little to the budget this year, the volatile foreign market and the inevitable difficulties of estimating world markets means that the Community is bound to need a lot more money to pay its bills.

Sir Geoffrey yesterday said "we need to look at every ECU" (European currency unit) before approving anything and Britain will be scrutinizing every Commission proposal in great detail. But the need for more money is certain.

Holland has put forward a suggestion that the new intergovernmental agreement would be large enough to allow Britain to have its promised contribution reduction inside the present limits. This would meet the political requirement of Sir Geoffrey that Britain cannot be asked to pay for its own reduction.



Zero altitude: A US space shuttle moving slowly along 13th Street, Santa Barbara, on its 17-mile journey to the California launch site; a non-flying mock-up named Orbiter Enterprise, it was being used to test access and road conditions.

Airline pays more to buy British

from Ian Murray
Brussels

A Caribbean airline has decided to buy British rather than accept a very low interest £16 million EEC loan for buying a Franco-Italian aircraft. Choosing four British Aerospace aircraft will cost the airline a considerable amount in extra interest payments, but it has decided this is better than being forced to accept an aircraft it does not want.

The airline, Leeward Islands Air Transport (LIAT), was told last autumn by the European Commission that the best replacement aircraft for its 20 year-old fleet was the ATR42. This is a new technology aircraft two years away from earning its certificate of airworthiness.

LIAT, however, wanted to buy British Aerospace's Super 748, the latest model of their old and trusted aircraft. Although it does not have the economical, low noise technology of the other machine, the airline needs replacement immediately and has insisted that it cannot wait for the ATR42.

British Aerospace is developing its own new technology aircraft and has offered to buy back the 748s at cost to supply its modern replacement as soon as it is airworthy.

The money to buy two of the new aircraft is coming from American Citibank at near commercial rates. The money for the other two is coming from the British Government at preferential rates. The loan will therefore cost significantly more than the EEC offer. But LIAT believes that it will still be better off with the 748.

Inquiry reopens on Reagan confidant

from Christopher Thomas
Washington

The Senate Judiciary Committee yesterday resumed hearings into the controversial nomination of Mr. Edwin Meese, a close confidant of President Reagan, as Attorney General. A staunch ally of the right wing of the Republican Party, he is at present the White House counsellor, a position

that gives him important influence in the Oval Office.

Mr. Meese, a longstanding Californian friend of Mr. Reagan, has been the subject of serious ethical and criminal accusations, mainly concerning his financial dealings with people who later received Federal Government posts.

After a five-month investigation last year, during which more than 200 witnesses were

interviewed, a court-appointed independent lawyer found no basis for prosecution.

His own lawyers wrote in *The Washington Post* yesterday: "There was not a shred of evidence that Meese had ever had the slightest intention of doing what his opponents had been accusing him of, which was selling Government appointments in return for personal financial favours."

How real is Washington's unity?

Hollow-sounding harmony

After reporting the Geneva talks and then visiting Washington for discussions with US arms control officials, Richard Owen reports from Moscow in the first of three articles on the prospects for progress in disarmament.

When the Shultz and Gromyko delegations met in Geneva this month to hammer out a framework for the new arms talks, the Soviets were taken aback by the presence of Western (mainly American) journalists in large numbers.

They were even more surprised when no one in the Shultz delegation leaked a single detail of what was going on behind the closed gates of the Soviet and American missions. "Those Americans love to talk to the press", observed one source close to the Gromyko team. "But they had been told to present a united front, and they did".

Some Soviet officials believe privately that differences within the Reagan Administration have been exaggerated. "It is fun to read about," one senior Soviet observer of East-West affairs said this week. "But when the boss says 'This is what we do', then this is what they do. It's the same in Washington as in Moscow".

On the face of it, harmony prevails in the Reagan Administration as it enters its second term. Quarrels between the State Department, the Pentagon, the National Security Council and the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency are subdued nowadays.

Reagan officials tell you, and have been set aside in the interests of American unity as the superpowers square up for the next talks on March 12 in Geneva.

Even Mr. Richard Perle, the most outspokenly hawkish member of Mr. Caspar Weinberger's staff at the Pentagon, was all smiles when President Reagan called Mr. George Shultz and other members of the arms control team to the White House to congratulate them on their "patriotic achievement" in the Geneva encounter with Mr. Gromyko.

But at least one seasoned Washington observer regards the new-found harmony as being "as temporary and fragile as the smile on Dick Perle's face".

research programme for space-based anti-missile defences. He added firmly that the space issue was linked (the Geneva agreement says "inter-related") to the other two arms issues, strategic missiles and intermediate range missiles in Europe.

There was confusion in Washington, with Mr. Shultz, the Secretary of State, and Mr. Robert McFarlane, the National Security Adviser, agreeing that there was indeed an element of "linkage", and Mr. Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, declaring in obvious surprise and dismay that this was news to him.

Several high Reagan officials believe strongly that if agreement is reached on strategic missiles, a treaty limiting strategic arsenals should not be held up by lack of agreement on space weapons.

No less ominously, Mr. Gromyko and other Kremlin leaders have hinted that the Soviet demand for the withdrawal of cruise and Pershing 2 has not been abandoned, but merely laid temporarily to one side.

The third group of talks on intermediate Euro-missiles, in other words, is also full of pitfalls; and Reagan officials differ on the extent to which Washington's partners in Western Europe can be relied on to resist Soviet pressure to halt the deployment of Nato missiles in response to Russia's growing arsenal of SS20s.

The new Geneva talks promise to be even more arduous, complicated and entangled than the old Geneva talks of 1982-3.

Tomorrow: Areas for negotiation.

EAST-WEST ARMS TALKS

Part 1

A particular problem is that the framework agreement reached in Geneva on January 8, after two days of hard bargaining, was so vague as to be open to several interpretations. There is room, in other words, for disagreement and misunderstanding not only between the Americans and Russians, but also between competing departments of the Reagan bureaucracy.

This became clear when Mr. Andrei Gromyko gave a staged press conference on Soviet television shortly after Geneva. In a magisterial performance, widely applauded in Moscow for its air of relaxed authority, Mr. Gromyko made clear that the Soviet priority was the elimination of President Reagan's cherished "Star Wars"

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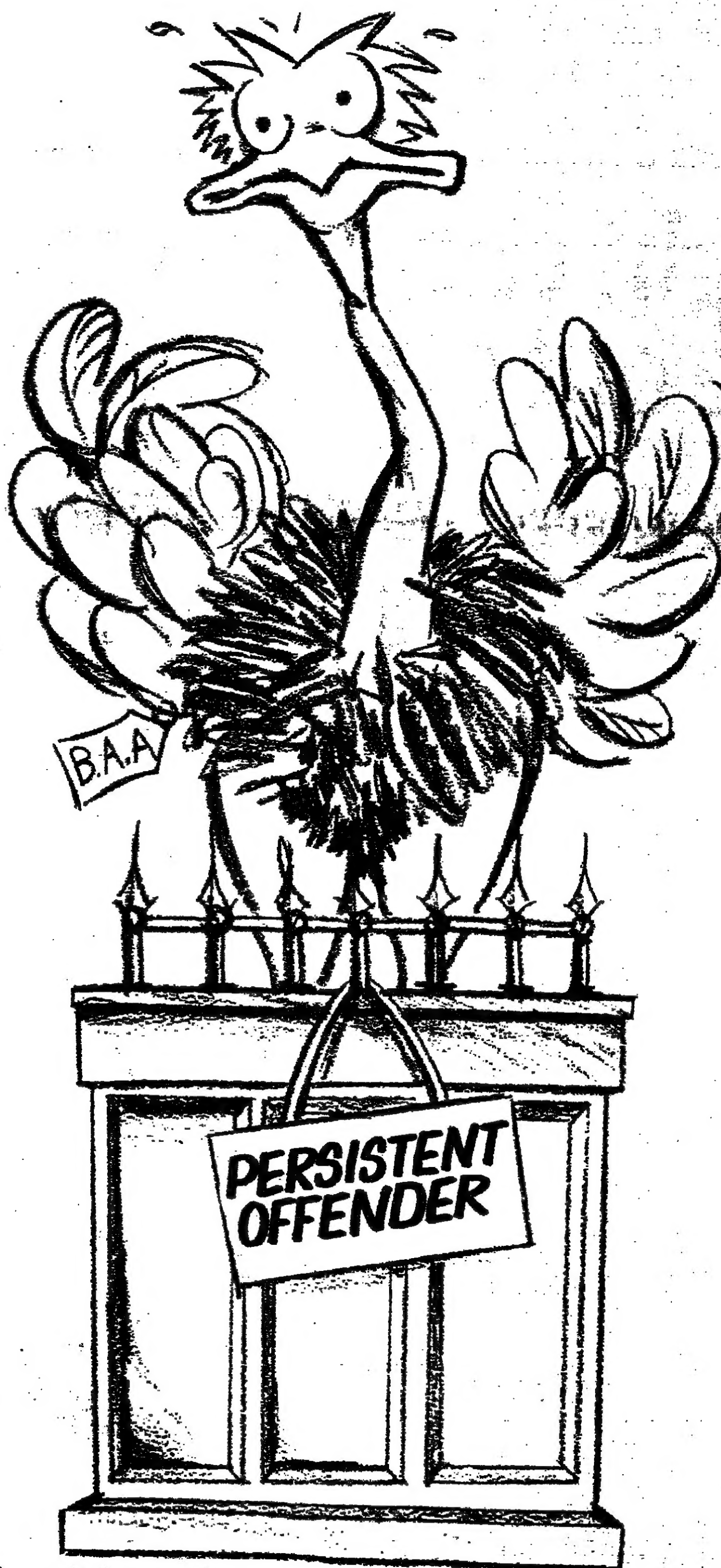
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Peking rebuffs Hanoi's hint of Cambodia peace as divisive ploy

From Stephen Taylor
Singapore

Signals that Vietnam may be interested in moves towards a peace settlement involving the withdrawal of its forces from Cambodia were dismissed as a propaganda ploy yesterday by Mr Wu Xueqian, the Chinese Foreign Minister.

Ending a five-day visit to Singapore, Mr Wu said that by holding out the prospect of a settlement Hanoi was trying to divide both its guerrilla opponents inside Cambodia and members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean), which includes Singapore.

He also referred to tension on the Sino-Vietnamese border and in a reference to the 1979 conflict said that if Hanoi persisted in its provocation, China reserved the right to teach it a second lesson.

Recent reports from Hanoi indicate that Vietnam would like to improve relations with the United States and is prepared to talk to the two non-communist guerrilla factions of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK).

A communiqué issued in Hanoi last week by Vietnam, Laos and the Heng Samrin administration of Cambodia spoke of a new plan for peace in terms of a Vietnamese withdrawal and the



Mr Wu's Hanoi peace statements deceitful

exclusion from any peace process of the Khmer Rouge, the third CGDK group.

Although Mr Wu said in Singapore that China would continue to support all factions to the best of its ability, Peking has in fact given most of its backing to the Khmer Rouge.

Yesterday he added that the three groups would be able to forge an independent, non-aligned Cambodia only if they were united. It was not possible for one faction to form a government.

Peace statements by Hanoi were deceitful and hollow, he said. Vietnam had created the problem by invading Cambodia and persisted in anti-guerrilla offensives which frequently violated Thai territory.

There was evidence during

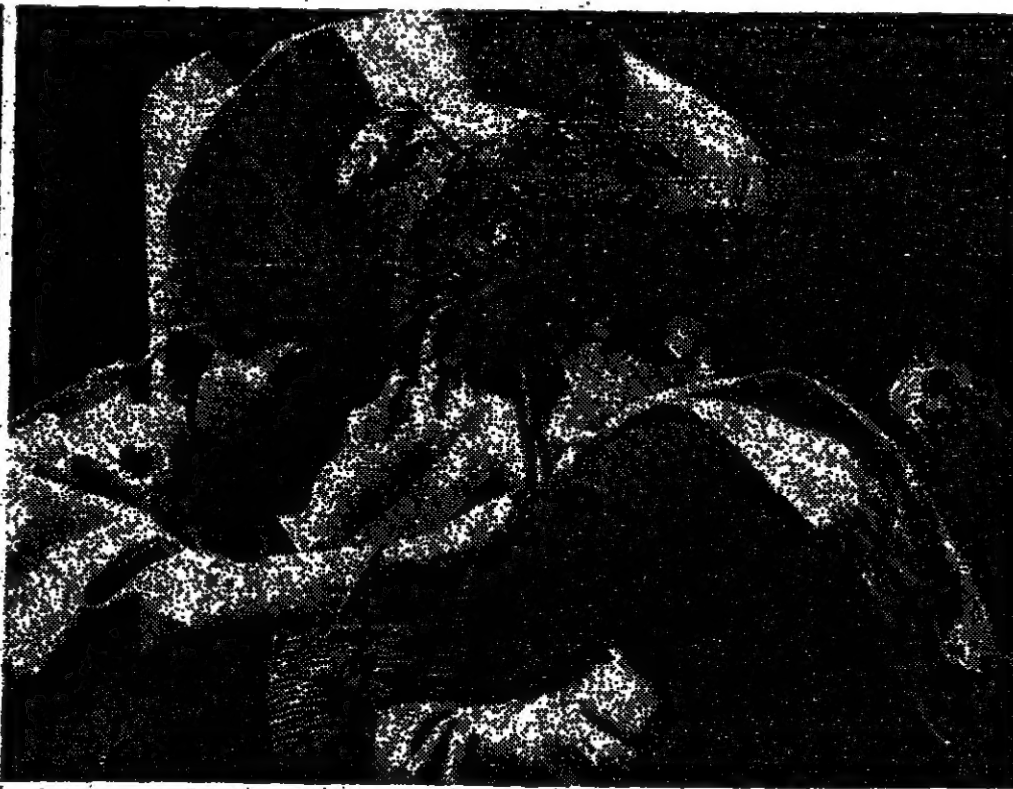
Mr Wu's visit of restraining efforts by Asean. After talks on Monday, the Singapore Foreign Ministry said it had been agreed that more patience was needed to bring Vietnam to the negotiating table. In the meantime, the guerrillas would be supported.

Singapore and other Asean members would like to see the non-communists, headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Mr Bon Sana, a former Prime Minister, emerge as the government of an independent Cambodia.

This new phase in dialogue over Cambodia will continue in March with a proposed visit to the region by Mr Bill Hayden, the Australian Foreign Minister. Australia, which has good relations with all the parties, sees itself as what it calls the "Facilitator" and Canberra is expected to announce a tour by Mr Hayden of Malaysia, Laos, Vietnam, Thailand and Singapore.

● **HANOI:** The UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, yesterday discussed Cambodia with the Vietnamese Foreign Minister, Mr Nguyen Co Thach, in talks that both described as "extremely useful".

● **BANGKOK:** Prince Norodom Sihanouk, leader of the anti-Vietnamese resistance in Cambodia, arrived in Bangkok from China last night for discussions with Señor Pérez de Cuéllar. (Neil Kelly writes.)



Traditional gift: An Andean Indian boy handing a present to the Pope in Mérida

John Paul Superstar steals the show

Caracas (AFP) — The Pope triumphed here on Monday night at a show that could have been named "John Paul superstar". Dancing girls in skin-tight blue jeans were swinging their hips to Afro-Caribbean salsa music when the Pope appeared on the cinder track in the Olympic stadium here to talk to 40,000 youths.

The young cheered, sang hymns and chanted: "Sí, sí, el Papa está aquí" (Yes, yes, the Pope is here).

At first, he could hardly be heard above the hubbub. "You can sing afterwards," he said. "Now the Pope wants to talk."

The young people were listening seriously, no longer making a sound. He warned them: "Do not fall into the revolutionary whirlpool. Join the effort to build, by peaceful means, a

society that is more humane and fraternal."

The young people were singing and dancing again. ● **CIUDAD GUAYANA:** The Pope, urging an end to social injustice and a strengthening of moral values, was completing a 72-hour visit to Venezuela yesterday with a trip to this industrial city 350 miles south-east of Caracas (Reuters reports). He was returning to the capital later to say goodbye to President Jaime Lusinchi.

White House forced to reappraise its Nicaragua strategy

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The Reagan Administration's bellicose policies towards Nicaragua are in serious trouble because of intensive congressional opposition to renewing covert financial aid to US-backed anti-Government guerrillas. An urgent review of strategy is under way in the White House.

Congress and the White House are sharply at odds over future policies, so much so that senior White House aides are pondering whether to try a totally new approach. One idea is to recommend to Congress the provision of "humanitarian aid" to families of the American-backed rebels, while simultaneously mounting new sanctions against the leftist Nicaraguan Government.

There is a feeling on Capitol Hill that the Democrats have effectively scuttled the Administration's attempt to renew direct military aid to the rebels, which was cut off last spring. The Administration is asking for an initial \$14 million (\$12 million) in aid to the rebels to facilitate further action against the Sandinista Government.

The Administration will face a particularly difficult problem if further military aid is denied: what to do with an army of 14,000 guerrillas that grew up as a result of \$75 million of direct US assistance between 1981 and 1984. The guerrillas get substantial private American help, but clearly not in such generous amounts.

The Honduran Government is worried. It is pressing for an agreement on the future of Nicaraguan rebels who have bases within its borders. In other words, it wants Washington to agree to pay to support the rebels should the guerrilla army fall apart. Honduras is the poorest country in Central America. Washington has privately answered with a flat "no".

A new sign of policy re-evaluation by the Administration towards Nicaragua emerged on Monday, when Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, said that President Reagan would again press Congress for aid for the rebels but that he was willing to consider alternatives.

Mr Speakes said: "The US will not break faith with those who seek freedom and democracy in Central America or elsewhere. Assistance to those in Nicaragua is essential, in our opinion. However, we are willing to work closely with members of Congress as we seek this assistance."

Congress approved \$14 million for the rebels last autumn but tied release of the funds to a second vote this year.

If American aid is continued the Honduran Government would, it is widely expected, allow the rebels to continue to operate from their bases. Without the aid, however, Honduras might be far less amenable to American wishes.

Bonn stops cash to exiles' newspaper

From Michael Blyton, Bonn

The Bonn Government has cut off funds for a Silesian exiles' newspaper which recently suggested an armed invasion to reconquer territory lost to Poland after the Second World War.

Herr Heinrich Wipacien, the Minister for Inner-German Relations and himself a Silesian, reflected, the Government's anger and embarrassment at the article by promptly refusing federal money for *Der Schlesier*, the official journal of the League of Silesian Exiles.



The affair is widely seen here as having dangerous consequences for West Germany's Ostpolitik.

It has already prompted bitter attacks of the leadership of Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who is being accused of weakness and vacillation in his handling of the hardline Silesian leaders. It also has led to angry polemics between Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, and right-wing Christian Democrats who accuse him of remaining silent about injustice in the East.

Despite persistent opposition calls on Herr Kohl to cancel his planned address to a Silesian rally in Hanover in June, the Chancellor declared after a meeting of his party executive on Monday that he would still go. But he said his Government had already made clear statements on its position on Germany's borders, and he

called on the exiles' leaders to do the same to avoid misinterpretation. The row was damaging West Germany's interests and image, he said.

Attacks on Bonn's policies have continued to pour out from Moscow, Warsaw and East Berlin. The East German party newspaper *Neues Deutschland* said the article on a possible invasion of the Warsaw Pact by the *Bundeswehr* was not just muddle-headedness by an individual, but revealed what lay behind all the talk in Bonn about keeping the German question open.

Most papers have been scathing about the Government's handling of the affair, and have praised Herr Genscher's outspokenness in insisting that Bonn accepts Germany's present borders as immutable. They noted however that the more he says this, the less clear the real attitude of the rest of the Government and coalition.

"The Government's foreign policy is already on a slope, and will continue to slide until Kohl clearly says that the regions beyond the Oder and Neisse are lost forever. The *Süddeutsche Zeitung* said yesterday. What Herr Herbert Wehner did for the Social Democratic Party (in accepting Adenauer's binding of West Germany to NATO) had still to be done by the CDU in Ostpolitik. "This gap is the source of all doubts and evils," the paper said.

This controversy has led to renewed tension within the coalition. Herr Alfred Dregger, the CDU floorleader who has taken a tough line towards East Germany, has warmly defended Herr Herbert Hupka, the Silesian league's chairman, who recently spoke of the "stolen homeland".

Herr Genscher, however, said on Friday that a handful of Silesian league functionaries were dragging West Germany's foreign policy into the gutter.

Kelly to defy Greens on rotation plan

Bonn — Frau Petra Kelly, one of the best known figures in the Greens Party, yesterday said she would defy a party ruling and not give up her Bundestag seat halfway through her term. (Michael Blyton writes.)

She told the party parliamentary faction that she would remain an MP until the next general election in 1987 in order to follow through her political initiatives to help children with cancer, to fight for human rights, and to struggle for the dissolution of military blocs.

Frau Kelly has been joined in opposing the party's "rotation" principle by General Gern Bässler, who last year quit the party, accusing it of intrigue and power struggles, and now sits as an independent. The other Greens have agreed to stick by the party vote to hand.

Widow's plea in A-test case wins approval

The widow of a San Diego man who died of cancer after exposure to radiation during atomic tests in 1946 and 1952 has won the right to sue the US Government on the grounds that it did not warn him he could develop cancer. (Ivor Davis writes.)

The decision from three judges of US Court of Appeals, reversed the findings of a San Diego judge that the government could not be sued because an administrative death claim filed by Mrs Florence Shippek, over the death of her husband, Carl, did not raise the Government's responsibility to issue cancer warnings.

Mr Shippek was a witness to tests in the Bikini Islands in 1946 and in Nevada six years later as a US Coastguard.

Delhi invasion plot claim

From Our Correspondent, Colombo

Sri Lanka's ruling United National Party has accused India of organizing an invasion of the island using Tamil separatists as "troops".

It has called on President Jayewardene to demand that Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, take action to "stop Indian encouragement of terrorism".

A party working committee meeting on Monday night said India was using Tamil separatist rebels and political parties as its de facto troops on the island. A statement issued by

Mr Nandana Fernando, party secretary, after the meeting said what was happening in Sri Lanka was similar to what had happened in East Pakistan, resulting in the creation of a separate state.

It accused the research analysis wing of the Indian Government, which had organized the Indian invasion of East Pakistan, organizing a similar invasion of Sri Lanka.

"Sri Lanka is now not primarily with the Sri Lanka government but with the Sri Lanka government's attempts to invade

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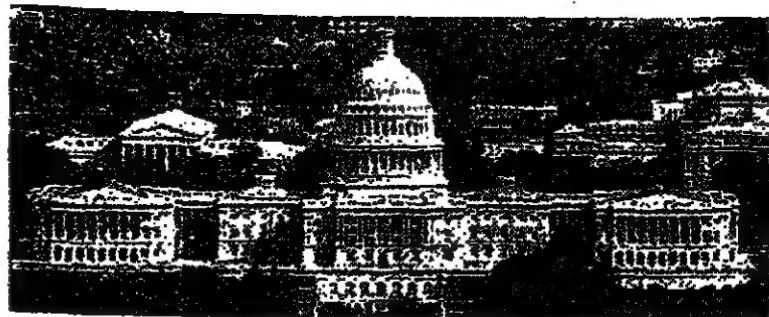
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SPECTRUM



The dome of Congress dominates Washington, spiritually and architecturally. It exudes the pride and confidence of America. Beneath it, every platitude about democracy, liberty and justice gleams with righteousness on the floors of the House of Representatives and the Senate. But as Christopher Thomas reports, real power is exercised by committees and pressure groups

House with a rein on Reagan

You have to be awed by Congress, even if it is usually an insufferable bore. An all-night House of Lords debate on the plight of the Scottish herring industry would be preferable to an hour of the routine, homogenised rhetoric of Congress. And yet such fearsome powers reside in this dreary place.

Most times it is impossible to regard the House of Representatives and the Senate as the parliament of a superpower. Every word, every lifeless moment of the proceedings of the house are televised, and hardly anybody watches. There is rarely a debate worthy of the word. Congress stirs but rarely. When it does presidents might be thwarted, reprimanded or fired. But between bursts of historic rage, it mutters and drones.

Much of the real political theatre is enacted elsewhere. Congress fusses and interlards a lot like an over-zealous old grandparent and President Reagan - who was never a congressman - frequently sends an admonishment. Congress is no longer intimidated by presidents the way it was. President Nixon was the final proof of that. President Reagan is still miffed at not being allowed to finance the guerrillas in Nicaragua, and he might lose the MX missile. Congress makes his political programme look like an incoherent drunk lurching in the dark.

Congress is a mad-house of committees and sub-committees. All congressmen want to be special for the folks back home, so they want to run something. There are 435 members of the House of Representatives and 100 Senators: 202 of them are in charge of something, however small.

Committees have their own will for life, their own struggle for status and recognition. Committees are places where political staffers pursue their esoteric Capitol Hill careers. Committees consequently spend a good deal of time in battle with other committees. The staffs continually get larger and more cumbersome. This is democracy by bureaucracy.

Many disputes are territorial. Committee One often does not know what Committee Two is doing. Opposite resolutions can emerge on the same subject. The same witnesses can be called before two committees to discuss the same issue. Often, events grind on interminably because

senators and representatives are determined to say something that will get them on the evening news back home. Democracy must be seen to be done, and votes must be got.

Many committees exist for no real purpose other than to please pressure groups, who wield much might on Capitol Hill, usually in direct proportion to the amount of money they can distribute. Congressmen receive substantial sums from pressure groups - it is a legitimate way of doing business on the hill. Influence has a price tag. The growth of political action committees (PACs) is one of the phenomena of post-war American politics. PAC loyalty has been hurt by PAC loyalty. PACs butter the bread of almost every member of Congress.

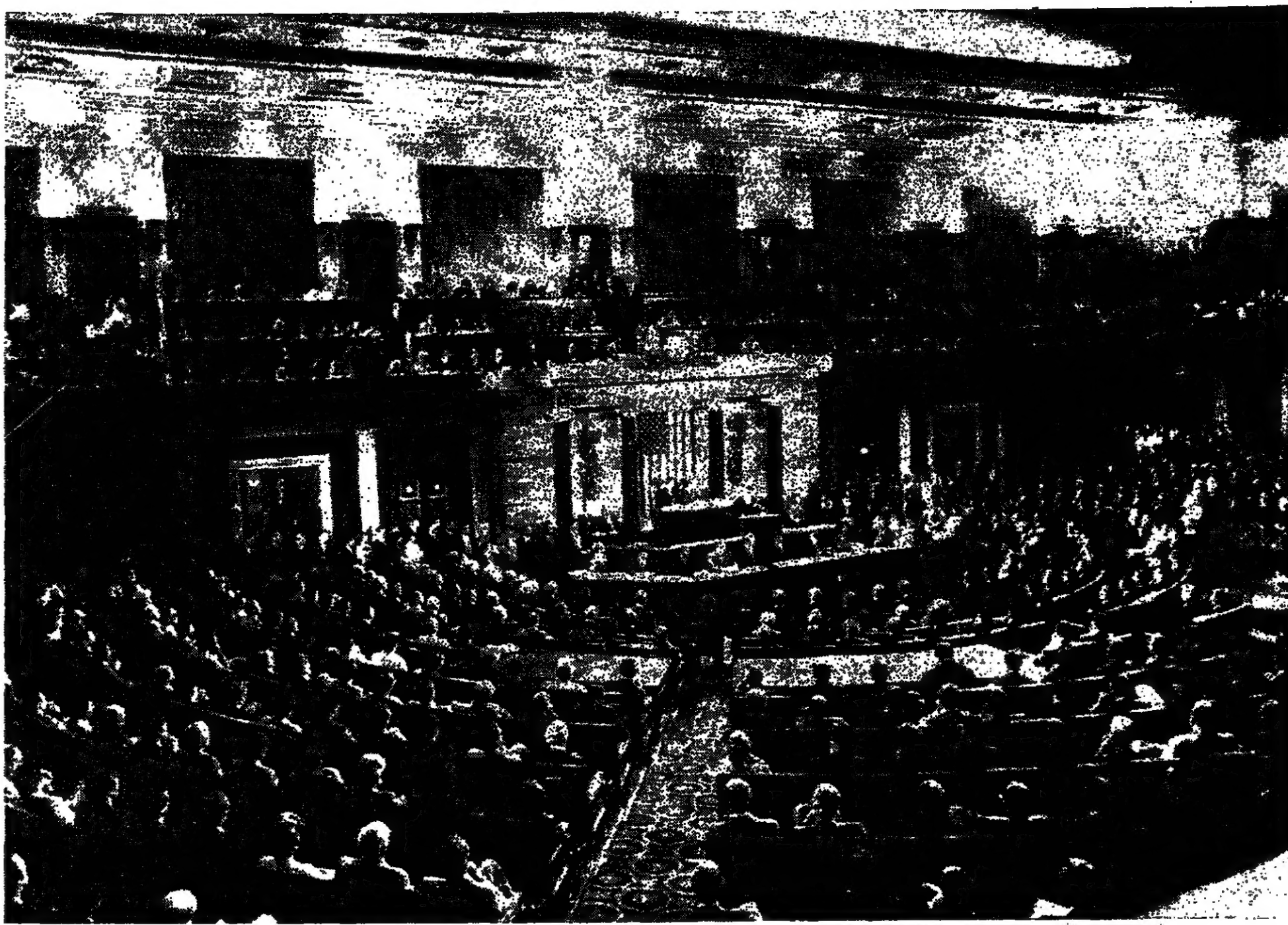
For example: in 1983 Richard Lugar of Indiana netted 129,000 dollars in honoraria. Twenty-one senators collected more than 50,000 dollars each. Corporations that wanted a piece of legislation passed paid 34,000 dollars to Senator Paul Laxalt of Nevada, and 30,300 dollars to Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah. The honoraria is usually said to be for speeches - it is a euphemism for payment.

Much of what happens in Congress is not news, even if it looks like it. The American Press insists on treating decisions of Congress seriously. Newspapers frequently give the impression that the House or the Senate has decided something stunning when, in fact, the decision is no more than the rantings of an out-of-control sub-committee. "House panel cuts US aid to El Salvador" is an example. It means nothing.

Take the 1984 defence budget: the Senate appropriations committee produced 5,300 pages of testimony from an army of witnesses who appeared over a 17-day period. The Senate armed services committee held 27 days of hearings and called 192 witnesses - many of whom had already testified before the appropriations committee. The Senate budget committee weighed in with a host of hearings.

Over in the House, the armed services committee, the appropriations committee and the budget committee were going through the same procedure.

The Senate produced a Bill. So did the House. They were different. There were weeks of debate in both chambers. The final versions were still different. Then a House-Senate conference



An unusually packed Congress - but the chamber is often empty because most decisions are made in the committee rooms

- a back-room gathering in which deals are done and old debts cashed in - resolved the discrepancies. The new Bill had to be voted on by both chambers. Seven weeks after the fiscal year began, Congress finally told the department of defence what its budget was.

A serious vote in the House is called a roll-call vote. The House chamber is usually all but empty because most congressional work is done in the committee rooms in separate quarters across the road. Members scampers into the chamber, rather than our own MPs

might run from St Stephen's Tavern, and vote on electronic devices. They then disappear and the chamber ships back into its familiar torpor.

For a member to miss a roll-call vote is serious, even if the vote is stupid. In recent times the House approved the creation of Mother-In-Law Day by 305 votes to 66. And by 388 votes to 11 it permitted the International Communications Agency (what-ever that is) to distribute a slide show entitled: *Montana: The People Speak*.

Even members of Congress get

confused. Some votes are preliminary decisions, kite-flying or plain mischief. Votes are frequently reversed. Yet in the next morning's headlines the whole nonsense is treated with an undeserved seriousness, as though the decision really was a decision.

Back to the budget: it is usual for the United States technically to be running without a budget for a period of several weeks each year. Democracy on Capitol Hill is such an overweight, lumbering creature that Congress nearly always approves the

budget long after the last one expired. Something called a "continuing resolution" keeps the country solvent. Many spending bills are not enacted until long after the spending they supposedly control has begun.

President Reagan, of course, does not have to endure the sort of har-racking that Mrs Thatcher experiences twice weekly at question time in the House of Commons. Hence, opposition sometimes lacks a focus. Congress debated and debated the American mining of the Nicaraguan port of Corinto - several members probably got a reasonable airing on the local news back home, but the event - dramatic as it seemed from Washington - did not really touch the nation.

Legislating in America sometimes turns from slog to sprint. It happens when the legislative machine groans under the weight of Bills that have been trapped in the labyrinth. Congress then goes on the rampage, a cathartic phase of great abandon, passing everything in sight. And sometimes things out of sight. The "unprinted amendment" is something that congressmen have never seen. They vote anyway.

Rita's phone number is famous on Capitol Hill. It was scribbled in the margin of the only copy of an amendment being voted on, and it therefore appeared next day in the printed copy of the Bill. By a sizeable vote, Rita's phone number had been approved. To this day, three years on, she is an anonymous lady.

Congress is not thought of as a moral place. Actually, it is riddled with scandalous rumour. Washington is awash with juicy stories of politicians' money deals, sexual encounters and drug-taking. Yet these succulent tales rarely make the sort of banner headlines that an MP might expect from Fleet Street. Despite dumping on Richard Nixon, the American Press is more respectful of politicians than the British Press. Their relationship is much more cosy, even if congress does lack an Annie's bar.

CHRONOLOGY

- 1789 First Congress met in April with 59 representatives and 22 Senators.
- 1861 Withdrawal of the Southern Democratic Senators when their States seceded, giving control of Congress to the Republican Party.
- 1868 The House voted to impeach President Andrew Johnson in a conflict over reconstruction. The Senate failed to impeach him by one vote. He was therefore not removed from office.
- 1919 The Senate rejected the Treaty of Versailles, a major turning point in foreign policy, reverting America back to isolationism after Wilsonian internationalism.
- 1933 The first 100 days of Roosevelt's new deal resulted in enactment of emergency legislation to combat the depression.
- 1946 Passage of the Legislative Reorganisation Act, which resulted in a major overhaul of the machinery of Congress, in effect creating the modern Congress with professional staff members and drastically reducing dependence on the Executive Branch for information and assistance.
- 1954 Censure for improper behaviour of Joseph McCarthy, the Senator who waged a campaign against communism in the Government and the military.
- 1964 Passage of the Civil Rights Act, which together with the Voting Rights Act broke the back of segregation in the United States, completing the principal objectives of the civil rights movement that grew up in the 1950s.
- 1966 The Senate passed the Voting Rights Act.
- 1973-4 The Congressional investigation and moves towards impeachment of President Nixon, leading to his resignation in August 1974.
- 1974 Passage of the War Powers Act, an attempt to take back some of its role in war-making and foreign policy from the President.

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THE LEADERS WHO PULL THE STRINGS OF POWER



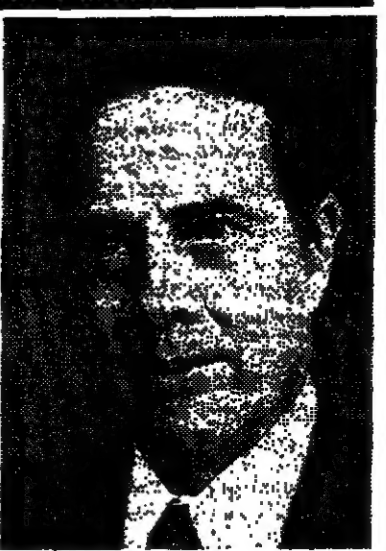
ROBERT MICHEL, Minority Leader of the House, is a friendly, centrist Republican who is under persistent pressure from vociferous right-wingers to move further in their direction. He has a good working relationship on Capitol Hill with just about everybody - rarely does he launch into partisan rhetoric, although he is eminently capable of it. He is especially friendly with his arch rival, Speaker Tip O'Neill. Rather than Minority Leader, he likes to be called Republican Leader. He is a political veteran, beginning as an aide to a republican congressman in 1949, and entering the house in 1956. As Republican Leader he is in a position to weld together a coalition of republicans and Conservative Democrats, a task he has often performed with panache. He has frequently been warned that he neglects his constituency because of his interest in national affairs - he was re-elected by a whisker in the Watergate year of 1974.



ROBERT BYRD, the Senate Minority Leader, is no superstar. He came up from the black dust of poverty of West Virginia. He is a nuts-and-bolts parliamentarian, a rules know-it-all.

People wondered how he would handle the switch from being Majority Leader to Minority Leader. In fact, he has become an effective spokesman for the party in opposition. You would not nowadays hear the comment of a colleague made in 1981: "Truth is, nobody likes the son of a bitch. He's impossible to deal with... He really isn't a leader." To survive that viewpoint is progress indeed.

There was one especially traumatic moment in his life. He was born Cornelius Calvin Sale, a fact he did not learn until he was 16, when he was told his real mother died of influenza when he was an infant and that Virginia and Tins Dalton Byrd, who raised him as their own, were really his aunt and uncle.



ROBERT DOLE, aged 61, the new Republican Leader of the Senate, is a man of wit and grit. He wants to be president.

He was twice wounded and twice decorated for heroic action as a wartime infantry platoon leader in Italy. His combat wounds put him in hospital for 39 months - his right hand remains paralysed. He referred sourly to his wartime experience during the 1976 presidential campaign, when he was President Ford's running mate. He said in a debate with Mr Walter Mondale, his Democratic counterpart: "If we added all the killed and wounded in all democracies in this century, it would be enough to fill the city of Detroit. Mr Mondale labelled him as the 'hatchet man' of the campaign, and it damaged him politically. But today he appears much more mellow. What is important in his life? 'Being at peace with yourself,' he said. 'Everything you do, you can account for.'

Why the Mona Lisa's smile is turning into a grin

moreover... Miles Kington

I can reveal that the most extraordinary scandal is about to break in France. It concerns the controversial new pyramid being built in the courtyard of the Louvre.

If you didn't know, the previously open and unspoilt expanse of the inner Louvre, the beginning of the vista through the Tuileries, is to acquire a huge pyramidal pimple right in the middle. This is for two reasons. One is that the French like to have something new and contentious to argue about, and there hasn't been anything really upsetting since the erection of the Centre Pompidou.

The other is that the pyramid will provide a convenient central entrance to an underground series of

corridors which will get you to anywhere in the Louvre in double quick time. It is as if there were a door in the base of Nelson's Column which led to anywhere round Trafalgar Square. In any case, the idea has been approved against stiff opposition, and already the extensions are well under way.

However, the scandal I mentioned concerns something much more recent: the discovery of an apparent series of forgeries in the Louvre. This centres on a portrait of an 18th-century gentleman by Pierre Mignard, a minor French artist, which had been stored temporarily in one of the chambers beneath the new pyramid. A passing art historian noticed the picture

and pointed out that although well painted the picture had to be a forgery. Pierre Mignard had died in 1695 and thus could by no stretch of the imagination have known what 18th-century costume looked like.

Why on earth should anyone want to forge a Pierre Mignard? This was the question that puzzled the experts. But before they could answer it, they found another apparent forgery, a landscape by David which unmistakably contained a small steam train puffing through the background. The mystery here is that David died in 1825 and could not have known what

a distant steam train, or indeed any kind of steam train, looked like.

Since then other paintings have come to light with similar anachronisms depicted in them. The artworld was horrified at the thought of the Louvre containing a nest of forgeries. But it has been even more horrified by a theory put forward by a French scientist: that these changes in the paintings have actually been caused by the pyramid site itself.

You may remember that during the 1970s many claims were made for the rejuvenating properties of pyramids. If a pyramid was

correctly constructed and positioned, the theory ran, then any object placed underneath would cease to age.

The French scientist now claims that the Louvre pyramid site, the biggest for many years, may have correspondingly greater powers of rejuvenation and that any work of art stored near it will start getting younger. If this is true, then a museum is obviously the worst place in the world to build a pyramid, because the older the contents of a museum, the better.

At any rate, it is the only theory put forward so far to explain the presence of trains in the David or indeed the unmistakable lipstick and make-up which have recently been noticed on

Cellini's *Nymph at Fontainebleau*. To test the theory, the director of the Louvre has ordered an anonymous 19th-century landscape to be left under the middle of the pyramid. The art world is now hoping against hope that no motorcars will appear in it, though one cloud is already beginning to look suspiciously like a far-off airship.

If the painting does change, the Louvre will have no option but to abandon the pyramid. The current joke in Paris is that it should be moved to the Elysée, where President Mitterrand's policies could be placed underneath it and brought up to date. Whatever happens, rest assured you will hear about it here first.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (557)

- ACROSS
- 1 Account (6)
 - 4 Second-in-command (6)
 - 7 Danger-free (4)
 - 8 Exclusive control (5)
 - 9 Obstinate (8)
 - 13 Court girl (3)
 - 16 Trailblazer hero (7,6)
 - 17 School society (11,1)
 - 19 Frenzied (8)
 - 24 Vehicle snatcher (8)
 - 25 Silent (4)
 - 26 Keyless (6)
 - 27 Mandate (6)

- DOWN
- 1 Repose (4)
 - 2 Self-service restaurant (9)
 - 3 Disband (5)
 - 4 Contributor (5)
 - 5 Long tube (4)
 - 6 Net fabric (5)
 - 10 Group (3)
 - 11 Greek weight unit (5)
 - 12 Sibling's daughter (5)
 - 13 Deface (9)
 - 14 Connect (4)
 - 15 Cutting blow (4)
 - 16 Flaw (5)
 - 20 Country dweller (5)
 - 21 Pulsate (5)
 - 22 Admonish (4)
 - 23 Ripped (4)

SOLUTION TO No 556

- ACROSS: 1 Random 5 Vast 8 Naive 9 Lasting 11 Unsteady 13 Lude 15 Gratification 17 Noon 18 Windfall 21 Entrust 22 Oasis 23 News 24 Raft
- DOWN: 2 Amies 3 Dee 4 Maladminister 5 Vest 6 Stimuli 7 Indulgence 10 Groundless 12 Epic 14 Bald 16 Apostle 19 Aide 20 Fuse 21 Off

Thinking small but making big money



It's still harder for a woman to get financial backing to start her own business

than a man. But the barriers are falling away as women are proving particularly adept at running small businesses. Patricia Clough reports.

One is divorced and penniless, another is married and bored. A third is a widow of 60, a fourth unemployed and a fifth fed up with her boss. What is a poor woman to do?

Once the answer was to marry, take a lover, be a governess, live in a nunnery or simply pine away. Nowadays the smart woman sets up in business.

The whole mood of the 1980s - flexibility, initiative, going it alone - has opened up unexpected opportunities for women. Thousands who are unable or unwilling to fit into the men-oriented world of work are starting small enterprises which they can fashion according to their lives and family commitments.

All over the country women are beating paths to their bank managers' doors, taking business courses and working long hours at kitchen tables over schemes ranging from computer software to cuddly toys, haute cuisine to pre-stressed concrete.

Any research indicates that once their businesses get off the ground women are more successful than men. Nor is it a passing fad.

In the United States 32 per cent of all businesses (the vast majority of which are small) are owned by women. In Britain where trends lag some 10 to 15 years behind, the proportion is estimated at 6 to 8 per cent and rising. Clearly this is only the beginning.

Some women have already dazzled, and possibly discouraged, others by their success. There is Annabel Geddes who, inspired by her children's complaints that the Tower of London was not gruesome enough, founded the spine-chilling London Dungeon and recently sold it to a leisure firm for £1 million.

There is Anita Roddick whose original way of selling toiletries exploded into the multi-million pound Body Shop chain and Jill Sander, a Hamburg fashion journalist who, frustrated by her dreary superiors, quit, set up a chic boutique and is now a prestige fashion designer in Germany.

Others, inevitably, have fallen flat on their faces. But the majority are making a fair to comfortable living, providing goods or services for which they have spotted a demand.

Management and business experts who are helping many of them to acquire the know-how to develop their enterprises say most housewives already possess the kind of skills they need. "Anyone who has run a home, brought up children, entertained, meditated between the different requirements of the family members and catered to their needs already has the skills it takes to run a small business - or a bigger one for that matter," said one.

"The trouble is that society does not recognize and reward these skills to women do not realize they have them."

Women, it seems, are more likely to succeed in small businesses than men because it is considerably more difficult for them to start than for men.

Those who have got what it takes to overcome the extra obstacles strewn in the path of women who want to start up a business, have usually got what it takes to make a success of it, according to Jean and David

Often women who have typically feminine qualities do not impress bank managers, while those who are aggressive can put them off for the opposite reasons

Watkins of Manchester Business School, who conducted a survey of women running small businesses.

For women with a good idea find it more difficult to raise loans from their bank manager, and more difficult to get customers to take them seriously than men do, they reported.

Women generally tend to



Jane Reid, who runs Lunchbox and (right) the multi-million Body Shop founded by Anita and Gordon Roddick

have fewer resources than men to put up as security on loans. Some bank managers refuse to listen to ideas unless the husbands are involved in them too. Some refuse to accept the jointly-owned family home as security - and somehow experts strongly advise women against taking this risk.

Often women who have typically feminine qualities do not impress bank managers, while those who are aggressive or super-efficient put them off for the opposite reasons, Mrs Watkins says. "Either way, women often can't win."

While the world's deeply-ingrained attitude to women is one obstacle, women's deeply-ingrained lack of confidence in themselves is yet another. Many get good, sometimes brilliant ideas, but I couldn't possibly do it - is the next thought. Men have no such inhibitions.

The Watkins' research, based on in-depth studies of small-businesswomen compared with 50 small-businessmen, showed that the women usually had no managerial experience - while many men had - and often

live up an image of success by, say, buying a Rolls-Royce. They tend to take less out of the business for themselves and invest more in making it work.

Women who set up on their own tend, on average, to be younger than men who start small businesses. But there are a remarkable number of women in their fifties and sixties who have been housewives all their lives, suddenly decide to do something they have always dreamed of, saying "If I don't do it now I never will."

One such was a widow, well over 60, who kept receiving inquiries about a stone-cutting machine for quarries which her late husband's then defunct

firm had produced years before. She set about producing the machines again and found herself inundated with more orders than she had ever expected.

Financial need is the greatest spur, however. Five years ago Mrs Jane Reid found herself divorced, with three children to bring up and educate and nothing but a course in domestic science behind her. She had been working with a friend on a luncheon service for busy businessmen based on London's chic Sloane Street, and the friend wanted to give up.

Jane took over. Since she could no longer afford to live in



London she moved out to Rickmansworth and operated from her own large kitchen. Almost every day she drives her blue estate car up to London, out of the rush hours, to deliver specially made plastic containers with four-course, home-made lunches for meetings and conferences where there are not the facilities, or time, for a restaurant-type meal. And she is back by the time the children come out of school.

Her business, Lunchbox, is thriving, she has a network of friends who will help with the big three or four hundred meal orders. Things are going so well that she is tempted to leave the cooking to her most devoted helpers and concentrate more on the business side.

Sue Griffin gave up her job as a senior accounts handler with a London advertising firm to follow a boyfriend to Wales. The relationship broke up, she wanted to stay and saw that, despite all the sheep in Wales, there were no nice soft woolly sweaters to sell to tourists.

She knitted up 35 samples, advertised for knitters in the local paper and contacted potential customers. Now she has 250 knitters on her books, a shop, outlets in the tourist centres and recently landed a contract to make a collection for top London designer Jasper Conran.

She estimates she is probably earning somewhat less than she would have been if she had stayed in London. But the work would not have been so rewarding nor she says "could I have been living on this lovely coast in West Wales with the sea outside my window?"

Christine Davies was the Communications Manager - somewhere at the top of the middle-level management - with a big nationwide book and stationery chain and opted to stay, and become redundant, when the headquarters moved out of London. Now she has her own small business training other managers and lecturing to women starting small businesses.

The advice she and other experts give is almost identical to that given by Jane Reid and Sue Griffin who have learned by trial and error.

You have to be businesslike and prepared to work extremely hard. Starting a business merely as a hobby is a sure recipe for failure. You have to be absolutely reliable and pay infinite

attention to detail, says Jane Reid with feeling.

Know what you want to do. There is no point in having a good idea if there is no demand for it. Make sure there is a market, work out the overheads, production costs and prices before seeking a starting loan from the bank or anywhere else.

Know that there is a risk. According to the Department of Trade and Industry, one in three small firms fold within their first seven years of life. Do not therefore offer your home as a security. Remember most firms take a couple of years to break even.

Keep things within control. Within a few months of starting Sue Griffin won an £18,000

Anyone who has run a home, brought up children and mediated between family members already has the skills it takes to run a small business

contract for a chain of craft shops and remembers with horror the effort of trying to fill it.

"Learn to say no", is her advice. "Don't try to do too much too soon."

If you can, take a business course. Courses specifically aimed at women seem the better bet. Many women are reluctant to take traditional business courses because they fear the teaching is geared to men and they will not be taken seriously. Experience by women who have taken the courses indicates they are right. Courses for women are available at, among other places, Manchester Business School, Aston University and the Industrial Society in London.

Get good advice. Above all, find a good accountant. The Small Firms Service of the Department of Trade (Freefone 2444) and the 28 Enterprise Agencies around the country can give free advice, as can local chambers of commerce. A few phone calls and research, trade department officials say, can save a lot of money and heartbreak later.

Pepping up a wintry night



Shona Crawford Poole

ripe this salad needs no additional herbs or flavourings. Eat it with good bread and a glass of wine.

Most of the tomatoes available at this time of year score poorly for flavour. There is simply too little of it. But they look bright and what taste they do have is at least fresh. Robustly-flavoured dressings and stuffings make the most of them.

Small tomatoes with a creamy horseradish-flavoured filling make a pretty and appropriate accompaniment to cold roast beef and to smoked trout. Or make a first course with two or three tomatoes all stuffed with different fillings. Peeling the tomatoes is a worthwhile refinement. They may also be glazed lightly with aspic if they are required to stand for any length of time.

Stuffed tomatoes
Serves six

18 tomatoes, about 55g (2 oz) each
340g (12oz) strained Greek yogurt, cream cheese or low fat fresh curd cheese

1 smoked trout, boned and flaked
Creamed or fresh horseradish to taste

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

110g (4oz) cooked tongue or ham, diced

Mustard to taste

55g (2oz) stale white or brown bread, cubed

3 tablespoons olive oil

1 teaspoon wine vinegar

2 spring onions, chopped

2 tablespoons finely chopped parsley or coriander

Aspic (optional)

If you are going to peel the tomatoes this should be done

first. Drop them into boiling water for about half a minute then transfer them to cold water and the skins will slip off easily.

Cut a good slice from the top of each tomato (the end opposite the stalk) and scoop out the seeds with a teaspoon.

Mix half the strained yogurt (or cream or curd cheese) with the flakes of smoked trout, breaking them up as little as possible. Season the mixture to taste with horseradish, salt and pepper and use it to stuff six of the tomatoes.

Mix the remaining yogurt (or cream or curd cheese) with the tongue or ham and season this filling to taste with mustard, pepper and salt. Alternatively, omit the yogurt and mix the tongue or ham with diced raw or cooked vegetables and bind the filling with a little good mayonnaise. Stuff six of the tomatoes with this mixture.

Fry the cubed bread in one tablespoon of the olive oil until it is crisp and dry. Combine the croutons with the spring onions and coriander or parsley. Moisten the mixture with a dressing made with the remaining oil, vinegar, salt and pepper. Fill the remaining tomatoes with this mixture.

Replace the lids and arrange the tomatoes on a wire rack if they are to be glazed, or on a serving plate if not. Brush the tomatoes with aspic which is near setting point. Serve with plenty of hot bread.

The following salad based on burghul, the cracked wheat sold by wholefood suppliers, would be another good choice for stuffing tomatoes.

Burghul and coriander salad
Serves four

110g (4oz) burghul (cracked wheat)

Juice of 1 large lemon

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

4 tablespoons chopped fresh coriander

4 spring onions, chopped

2-4 tablespoons best olive oil

Put the burghul in a bowl and add cold water to cover it by at least 2.5cm (1 inch). Leave it to soak for at least 30 minutes, possibly 60 if it is old, until the grains have softened but still have a good chewy bite to them.

Strain the soaked burghul and squeeze out any surplus liquid with your hands.

Put the burghul in a bowl and

stir in all the remaining ingredients. Allow about an hour for the flavour to develop fully.

Soupe au pistou is classically a summer soup of the South of France. It is a true vegetable soup which does not resort to the stock pot or cream jug for its richness. Instead it blends fresh tastes of many vegetables with the pungent fragrance of basil. Thanks to unseasonal imports from far flung places, all the vegetables can be bought now. You may find, or grow, hothouse basil. If not, a small jar of Italian pesto sauce will suffice.

Soupe au pistou
Serves six to eight

3 leeks, white part only, finely sliced

3 carrots sliced (or diced if large)

3 medium potatoes, diced

450g (1lb) cooked white haricot beans (dried or tinned)

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

3 slim courgettes, thickly sliced

225g (8oz) green beans, cut in short lengths

110g (4oz) small macaroni

For the pistou

4 cloves garlic

A large handful of fresh basil leaves or a small jar of pesto sauce

55g (2oz) freshly grated Parmesan cheese

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

150 ml (¼ pint) olive oil

Put the leeks, carrots, potatoes and beans in a large pot with 2.75 litres (5 pints) of water and salt and pepper. Bring it to the boil and simmer the vegetables, uncovered, for about 30 minutes, then add the courgettes, green beans and macaroni. Continue cooking until all the vegetables and the pasta are cooked.

Meanwhile make the pistou. Using a pestle and mortar or a food processor, blend the garlic and basil leaves (or pesto sauce) to a smooth paste, then stir in the cheese, salt and pepper, and gradually add the olive oil. This sauce is not intended to be an emulsion like mayonnaise. It will separate when left standing and is stirred again before use.

Serve the soup very hot and let everyone help themselves to pistou. Offer lots of hot French or wholemeal bread.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Debatable trial

Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton yesterday told the diary he believed there was a cover-up behind the MOD's rejection of the independently designed S90 - the "short, fat" warship proposed as a cheaper alternative to the £110m Type 23. Michael Heseltine has just announced in the Commons that he hopes to place orders soon for the Type 23 - the traditional "long, thin" ship designed by the nationalized Yarrow Shipyard and the MOD's design team at Bath. Although the MOD has always maintained that tests on the S90 failed to meet the requirements of the Type 23, now in our possession reveals evidence that successful tank tests on the S90 were rejected out of hand by the defence ministry. The tests, costing some £150,000 and funded in part by the Department of Industry, were carried out by the country's most eminent testers, the National Maritime Institute and the British Hovercraft Corporation. Although both tests proved the S90 met the performance requirements of the T23, the MOD's "independent" advisory group, the secret Defence Science Advisory Council, rejected them. Instead it perverted its assessments on computer predictions for conventional hulls. These assessments were drawn up by YARD - the Yarrow Admiralty Research and Development group. YARD is part of Yarrow PLC which is interested in purchasing Yarrow Shipbuilders now awaiting the first order for the T23.

Ironically, the chairman of the hull committee of the DSAC, which rejected the S90 tests, is Marshall Meek - former chief naval architect of British Shipbuilders, who is now Director of the National Maritime Institute - the company which tank-tested the ship. Yesterday Lord Hill-Norton said: "The rejection of the S90 rather confirms what I said about the Government trying to hold a forthcoming trial in camera: something seems to be concealed. Having seen the films of comparable sea trials between the S90 and the 'long, thin' ship, the S90 has substantial advantages in terms of weapons, platforms, stability and even speed for certain horsepower."

After direct mail comes the direct telex. The Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind boasts that to raise money for the Bhopal disaster fund they teleaxed 47 carefully selected companies asking for donations. Their haul: £20,000 from 28 replies.

Buffeted

Travelling down from Sheffield to London by train recently, Arthur Scargill was accosted in the buffet car by a soldier - somewhat the worse for wear - who began to tell the NUM leader exactly what he thought of his members. Tempers rose until the soldier finally chucked his beer and pork pie at Scargill. The train stopped at Leicester where the soldier was bundled off. Transport police are now deciding which railway by-law was contravened by this attack.

Not so sweet

Norman Willis's honeymoon as TUC General Secretary did not last long. He has just had a letter from Dennis Skinner concerning his failure to call a general strike. "Words uttered at Noddy meetings, nods and winks to 'wet' Tories, elbow nudgings with fellow quango members and special pleadings to the establishment will not suffice at this critical moment in TUC history," writes Skinner. "Your job now is to call on workers to fight the battle alongside the miners and their families. The TUC has the power, the organization and the responsibility - use it."



Empty bar

Established Gray's Inn barristers, long used to dining at only the finest restaurants, have been shocked to receive stern letters from the Gray's Inn Society. The society reminds them that they have so far failed to keep their commitment to eat at least four meals in hall after being called to the bar. "In an honourable profession you should expect to honour your promises," said a Gray's Inn spokesman. "There's certainly nothing wrong with our dinners - we have a French chef." The matter is causing such concern that the Masters of the Bench are meeting next week to determine the fate of renegades.

PHS

Opec is once again struggling to stave off disaster. The much battered oil producers' cartel, now meeting in Geneva, is trying to do what it has done so often without success in the past: to shore up the oil price against relentless and powerful market pressures for a cut. This time however it has a new and fortuitous ally: the sterling crisis.

The weakness of the pound can only reinforce Britain's efforts to prop up the Opec price structure in apparent defiance of every principle that it might be expected to support. With North Sea oil now accounting for 5 per cent of the economy, fears of lower oil prices have been a major factor in sterling's decline since the New Year.

Although Europe is more cautious, there is a marked belief among oil traders and forecasters in the United States that oil prices are heading downwards, possibly sharply. The only question in their mind is how long Opec can postpone or moderate the slide. President Reagan's administration has openly predicted and welcomed the prospect of lower prices.

This confidence, whether well-placed or not, has been backed by hundreds of millions of dollars on the commodity and foreign exchange markets, helping to put the pound under pressure. Yet what is now ever more certain is that Britain will not be one of those roofing for the fall.

It would be the easiest thing in the world for Britain to give oil prices a shove in a downward direction by announcing a cut in the price of North Sea oil. In the present conditions, Opec would have little choice but to follow suit. The move could be easily justified by market forces: the price of North Sea oil on the "spot market" has been consistently below the official price for months, and the British National Oil Corporation, the state-owned trading body which handles over half the North Sea's output, has been unable to find even half the buyers it needs.

Why sterling needs an oil price high

As Opec ministers meet, Jonathan Davis looks at Britain's pricing dilemma

The Government has had to underwrite the corporation's losses - £45m before Christmas and at least £500,000 a day since the New Year.

Yet the cut is unlikely to happen. After its vote for over interest rates and the defence of sterling in the last fortnight, it would be astonishing if the Government was now to risk any move which might bring the pound under yet more pressure, as a North Sea price cut would. Both Mrs Thatcher and the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, have been plugging away at the message that there is more to the British economy than North Sea oil. Yet as long as the foreign exchange markets continue to link sterling's fate with the oil price, calls for Britain to take the lead in forcing oil prices down will continue to receive short shrift. When the Opec meeting ends, the Government is not expected to sanction any sudden move by BNO.

This would certainly be consistent. For the last three years the Government has pursued a policy of what might be called "vigorous indecisiveness" in the world oil market. In practice this has meant carefully avoiding any action that might lead oil prices down. On at least three occasions in the last 22 months, ministers at the Department of Energy have tried to use their influence to delay cuts in North Sea prices, on the grounds that it would unnecessarily destabilize the fragile Opec price structure.

Since late last year, the whole North Sea pricing system has effectively been suspended and left in limbo simply to allow Opec another chance to put its own house in order.

No one in Whitehall pretends that this is a very edifying policy, let alone a coherent long-term strategy. There is after all something rather ironic about the spectacle of an avowedly non-interventionist Government being seen to prop up the price-fixing efforts of a cartel which it has often blamed for the West's economic malaise in the 1970s.

The political sensitivity of being seen as Opec's friend is one reason why the Government has made such heavy weather of explaining its oil pricing policy and why it has tended to hide rather feebly behind the fiction that it does not normally intervene in BNO's oil pricing decisions. The policy is blatantly geared to the short-term maximization of benefits for the British economy: higher North Sea tax revenues, higher oil exports.

Opec itself still bitterly points out

that Britain has continued to build up production from the North Sea while its 13 members have had to hear the brunt of production cutbacks to keep the price aloft.

Few are prepared to take the risk of the sudden all-out price war which could follow if North Sea prices were forced down aggressively. It is a commonplace in the oil industry and in the City that, once oil prices start falling, they may not stop until they sink to \$15 or \$20 a barrel (compared with the current nominal Opec price of \$29). The shock to the world financial system - as well as the possible hole it would blow in tax revenues - would be severe. Like most commonplaces, nobody has really tested whether this is a serious or likely eventuality. The fact that the risk is there is excuse enough for any government trying to justify its short-term pricing policy.

Britain cannot go on pursuing its ambivalent oil price tactics indefinitely, however. There are signs that the Government would like nothing better than to take North Sea oil out of the international limelight altogether. At the moment, every change in price is exposed to the intense scrutiny of dealers on the oil and currency markets. It is also clear that BNO, designed for times of shortage such as the 1970s, is singularly ill-equipped to deal with the weak markets of the 1980s. The corporation's future has been under intense review in the last few weeks, both by the Department of Energy and the Prime Minister's policy review staff.

Debate about BNO's future is an argument about means rather than ends, however. The real question that needs to be resolved is whether Britain's best interest lies in keeping oil prices high, or in judging them lower. The argument is a finely balanced one: but because of sterling's weakness, it is not one that is even seriously debated. As North Sea oil starts to decline, it will not be so easily avoided.

35 people a day are dying at Bati: Paul Vallely reports from a 'success' story

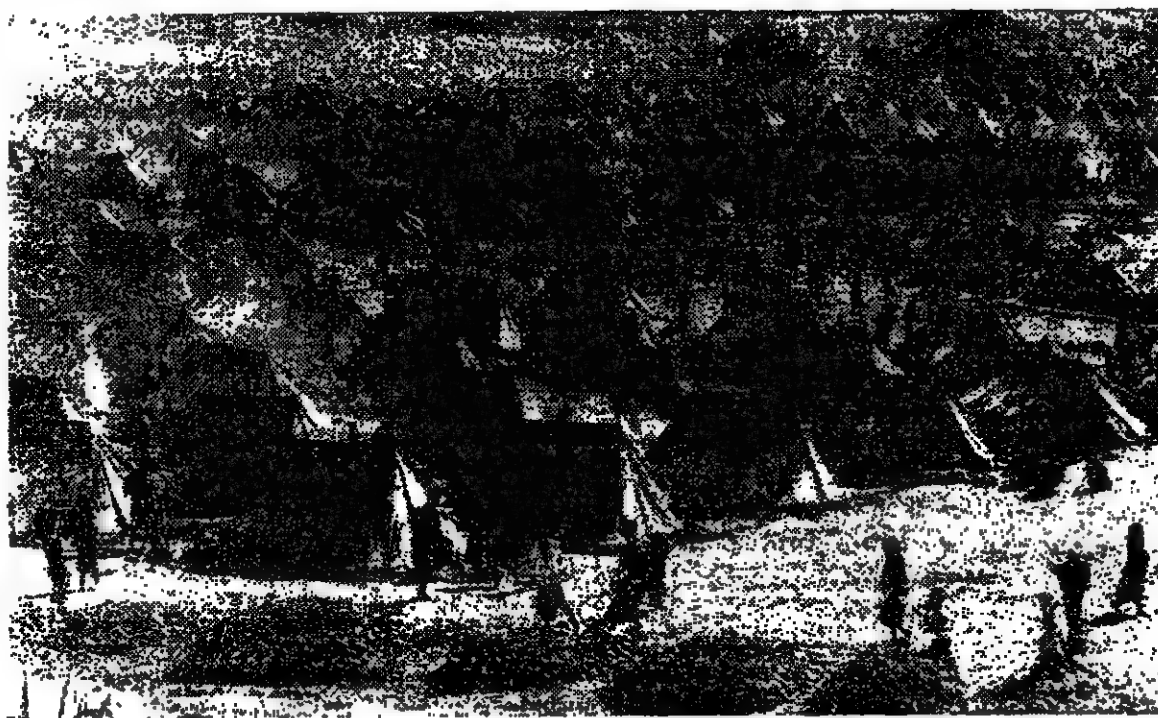
Hope that hurts more than hunger's despair

Addis Ababa Only a few years ago Bati was the second largest market in Ethiopia. Tens of thousands of people gathered there on the edge of the rift valley, halfway between the hills and the plains. Highlander and lowlander would meet to trade, the Amharic and Tigrinya speakers of the uplands with their grains, chickens, vegetables, clothes and ropes mingling with the Oromo and Afar nomads who had brought their camels and humped long-horned cattle to sell.

Today there are still tens of thousands of people gathered at Bati, but the farmers and the nomads are without grain or livestock of any kind. In the past three months Bati has become the fastest-growing refugee camp in the dry, barren lands of Wollo. In November it was just one of hundreds of food distribution centres. Then came the point when people who journeyed for up to 50 miles every month to collect their dry rations remained in huddles and makeshift shelters around the centre. When asked why, they replied that they had nothing to go home to - the long walk to an empty hut had come to have little point.

By the middle of last month refugees were arriving at the rate of 1,000 a day, until the total reached almost 30,000. Bati camp had acquired a population larger than many of the capital cities of Ethiopia's main provinces.

There are 32 full-time grave diggers employed at Bati, the camp's administrator, Mesfin Hadeform, says with pride. Only six weeks ago he needed four times as many. But today Bati is regarded as an example of the great success of the relief operation mounted by the government and the outside charities. In this case the Red Cross. The daily death rate has fallen from 120 to last to an average of 35. Many of the 2,435 children on intensive feeding



A view of Bati camp, now bigger than many of Ethiopia's capital cities

of six meals a day and the 4,445 on a supplementary programme look as though they are improving, the experts say.

Although there are 40 people crowded into each of the 630 tents, designed for use by eight or ten soldiers, there has been no outbreak of cholera, against which the camp now has a quarantine ring. There are only three or four hundred candidates for admission every day. Four thousand Bati refugees have volunteered for the government's resettlement scheme in the western provinces. The Relief and Rehabilitation Commission official is pleased to say.

And yet to the eye of the newcomer there is something even more harrowing about a camp like Bati than those further to the east in the desolate highlands. There the people seem to have gone beyond despair, even beyond feeling, they sit like breathing statues, drained of everything save the mechanics of being alive. It is a hard thing to admit, but it is almost as if they do not appear to be people any more. At Bati the response is more devastatingly human. People smile, cough, beg, laugh, hold out their hands or stare in silent accusation.

Between the tents a boy plays with a toy made from a stick and the empty box of an anti-diarrhoea medicine. He laughs as he shows it to me. In the yard of the feeding centre men sit on their haunches, in

concentric arcs, some stare pointedly at the ground, others look with pleading expectation, others yet with forthright curiosity and others with glaring hostility. All register the arrival of another western journalist. I find it difficult not to avert my gaze. It does not feel right that an outsider should witness their shame, their prostrate humiliation. These people are robbed of independence, initiative and privacy; they are a proud people and they resent it.

Mrs Kubra Mohamed is in the room where children are weighed and measured to determine whether they need intensive feeding, supplementary feeding or simply normal rations. Her two children are the same size, though the boy Hussein is aged 3 and his sister Weila is only one year old. Hussein holds his hand over his eyes. He does not want to be weighed. Weila acquiesces placidly.

The interpreter translates my questions and the woman replies. "She says she is 40, she thinks. Her husband left her six months ago to look for work. She has not seen him since. She does not know where he has gone. They have run out of grain stored from the last harvest. Last year was a bad harvest but this year there has been nothing at all. She has come to live here. The boy will get supplementary feeding. The girl will not." The Kubra Mohamed asks, "Why do you want to know all this?"

In the hospital tent the canvas walls have Christmas pictures still fastened above the beds. They have been sent by children from Scandinavia, anachronistic reminders of a time which has no place in this present reality.

In one corner, under a picture of a snowman sits Fatima Mohamed. She is a beautiful woman with the fine features of the Afar people. She smiles as I enter, and yet before her is the most horrifying sight I have ever seen.

On their bed lies her 18-month-old child, Hadra. She lies like a grotesque puppet, her head huge, her limbs like insensible twigs flopped aimlessly about her. Her eyes stare with such ferocity it is as if they have an independent life and are straining to move back into her head, away from the world outside. Her mouth is open, and a fly runs round its pitiful circumference.

It seems an inanity to ask, but I do: "How is the child?" The mother replies: "She is dying. Soon I will be able to go back to my village to see my son. He is four years old." I tell her I am sorry and hope the boy is well. She smiles and says something. "What is that?" I ask the interpreter. "She says, thank you. She says how are you? Are you well?" I smile and nod, with no real answer to give. She smiles too. We smile over the dying body of the matchstick child. This is Bati: one of the success stories.

Party games with Monty the Mole

It was a quiet afternoon. In South Yorkshire a working miner was eaten alive by militant piranha fish. The government, already reeling from a shock-horror by-election defeat, was forced to use troops to quell food riots by starving pensioners. Mr Denis Thatcher was caught trying to escape from Number Ten. Meanwhile the Soviets launched nuclear strike on Miami, and the West had less than five minutes to scramble its stealth bombers and take out Moscow.

All these things happened on five current computer games. Political software has arrived. You can have a video fantasy adventure with today's headlines, and use real political figures as electronic heroes and villains. And these games "just a bit of fun"? Or do they carry a secret message? Is there a video conspiracy to show Arthur Scargill as an Alien Mutant From Mars?

Mr Scargill certainly seems to be a popular choice for political video games. He is one of a big cast in *Denis*, an adventure game whose hero is Mrs Thatcher's husband. Guided inconspicuously by a fellow Dennis - Mr Skinner - Mr Thatcher has to escape from the political jungle to the little pub At the End of the Monetariat Dream World. En route he must avoid not only Mr Scargill but also the Pope (and Ian Paisley). Presidents Reagan and Mitterrand, Prince William (and most of his relatives), a clutch of Cabinet ministers, Ken Livingstone,

Mary Whitehouse and other leaders of modern thought including the editor of *Private Eye*. The game is lost instantly if he is caught by Mrs Thatcher. In his hands Mr Thatcher was recaptured instantly and I left him trapped miles from any possible nineteenth hole.

Wanted - *Monty Mole* is riding high in the video game charts. *Monty Mole* is a working miner in South Yorkshire. He has to get into his pit, avoiding flying pickets and falling sacks of coal. Then he must collect pick, bucket and wage packet and work at the coal face, avoiding drills, crushers and piranha fish (yes, piranha fish). At the end *Monty Mole* battles with fiery Arthur and his deadly weapon - flying hair-sprays.

The game has some deficiencies. I began to suspect bias when I saw no provision for video riot police or flying sequestrators. But it was refreshing to see Scargill get more sympathetic treatment as Fiery Arthur than he receives from most other media. *Wanted - Monty Mole* was devised by the teenage son of a striking miner.

In *Election* the player fights the Pendell by-election for Conservative, Labour or Alliance. Having chosen his party he is offered seven of its declared policies from which he chooses three to write a manifesto. The game gives the Alliance by far the most attractive policies and allocates Labour some of its dullest. The by-election

campaign lasts 10 computer days, with polls, meetings, poster and newspaper canvassing, and street-by-street canvassing.

The game departed completely from reality by assuming that Labour's campaign was fought without a single row, split or media disaster. In spite of this, the Tory won comfortably and kept on winning comfortably when I tried again. I produced a Labour victory only when the Tory campaigned as ineptly as the game allowed and after the government turned down his plea to restore hanging.

1984 is a complex game which simulates a British government running the economy. I tested it for bias by doing the sensible things from Labour's programme and it played fairly. It awarded my government with higher growth and some extra jobs at the cost of rather higher inflation. Moreover, it allowed satisfactory wage settlements with everyone except the greedy and extortionate civil servants.

Unfortunately it is very easy in 1984 for a government to forget to do things. In my case I forgot to put up pensions and my government fell on a vote of confidence after troops were used against elderly food rioters.

Raid Over Moscow is back to fantasy, sinister rather than zany. The game begins when the Soviets cheat on the "Salt IV agreement" and launch an all-out nuclear strike on Miami.

According to the game, "the Soviets believe that their treachery will lead to total world domination". Only you (the player) can save the West. As squadron leader you must get your five stealth bombers out of the secret space station (presumably the West also cheated on the Salt IV treaty), nuke all the Soviet launch sites and then drop a commando team to take out the Kremlin defence command. I could get no bombers out of the space station at all, and was promptly informed that the Soviet attack had succeeded. The screen then went black, presumably to depict the "nuclear winter".

I am working on a new game myself. I intend to make it fun but life-like and free of the political bias which creeps or storms into the other games. You, the player, are Kinko, a little dragon. You are leading a party of other animals, including the Hesperian and the Hefferlump, and have four years to take them to the end of the rainbow.

You must follow a turning and twisting road and keep to the middle of it, even when other animals try to pull you right or left. From time to time alien mutants infiltrate the animals behind you, turn bright red, and try to stab you in the back. No, meet the Blue Monster regularly, and unless you hit fast she beats you up. You lose the game totally if you get caught with Big Red Arty.

Richard Heller

Robin Cook

Put a brake on this runaway Bill

Within the next week or two the Government is confidently expected to unveil what promises to be its most unpopular measure of the session. Fittingly, it is to be introduced by Nicholas Ridley, whose record in this session may so far be regarded as a succession of reverses building up to this final debacle.

In the beginning there was his Civil Aviation Bill, which became the first published measure to be put on the shelf because the Government with the largest majority in recent memory could not get it through the House. Then there followed his attempt to withhold £50m from the GLC, quashed by the courts with a magisterial rebuke for behaviour which was "unlawful, irrational, and procedurally improper".

And now from the same pen arrives his Bill on public transport which threatens to do for our bus services what Dr Beeching did for our rail network. If further testimony were needed to the imperiousness of Mrs Thatcher's administration, the very survival of this measure provides it. There was a time when the GLC government would have persevered with a measure that had managed to unite in opposition to it a major brewery company and the National Federation of Women's Organisations.

The separate concerns of these two opponents illustrate the major threats of the Bill. The brewers suspect that it will provoke a slump in late evening bus services with a domino effect on pub trade. Their fear is grounded in the proposal for wholesale deregulation of bus routes. This will inaugurate a new era in which bus operators may run each other down competing for profitable traffic at peak hours on the busiest routes, but in which none will any longer be obliged to sustain a service during the rest of the day, when housewives may wish to shop or pensioners to visit hospital.

This bold throw has been tested out on three trial areas. In Hereford the city surveyor has complained that the conversion of his residential streets into a perfect free market has "created major environmental problems" as operators raced against each other for business, resulting on at least one occasion in bemused passengers standing by while rival drivers argued over who had seen them first. The Traffic Commissioners denounced one bus operator for "an appalling record which in our view shows an almost complete disregard for his responsibilities", and revealed that his maintenance yard had turned out to be a lair by the Hereford-by-pass.

Less determined men might have hesitated, in the face of such evidence, from turning the whole of Britain into a trial area. The

Department of Transport has vaulted all such objections with the Olympian dismissal: "While the industry and newcomers to it are adjusting to the new opportunities, we must expect some failures and shortcomings".

Women's organisations are even more alarmed at the potential effect of the proposal which would prohibit using income from the busier services to support those routes that cannot pay their way. The financial support that is channelled to uneconomic routes through such cross-subsidy is currently three times the total amount of public subsidy to bus transport. Deprived of it large numbers of services to rural areas or city peripheries will simply wither and die.

Local authorities, in theory, will retain the power to subsidize bus transport. In practice they will have no funds to match those powers, as government grants on transport expenditure will only be provided from now on for the construction of roads. Those local authorities with a municipal bus undertaking will be ground between an upper millstone of unregulated competition on profitable routes and a nether millstone of unsubsidized operation on loss-making routes. British Leyland, which supplies most of them, has predicted that in consequence the nation's bus fleet will fall by a quarter.

To be fair, someone over at Marsham Street appears to have grasped that the net result will be to make an awful lot of people miss the bus. The Department of Transport accordingly proposes to help them by providing in the Bill a new legal right to share taxi fares. To paraphrase Marie Antoinette, if they have no bus, let them take a taxi.

The long infatuation of the Department of Transport with the private motor car is well documented. It is not for nothing that environmental lobby groups now refer to it as Toot Hall. Yet ironically its latest offensive against public transport coincides with a modest, but definite, success by more imaginative local authorities in attracting traffic back to the buses. Tyne and Wear have recently increased passenger journeys by two million and South Yorkshire by three million.

The benefit from such a trend is demonstrated by the past success of the GLC's fares structure, which reduced the number of motorists in London by a twelfth and cut road accidents by an estimated 3,500. Such figures deserve to be heard above the delighted clamour of "poop, poop!" emanating from Toot Hall, as the finishing touches are put to a Bill designed to drive the public back into their motorcars. The author is Labour MP for Livingston.

Digby Anderson

Man in the very perilous street

I am always being told, especially by Liberals, that the national newspapers fail to address the "real" problems of the man in the streets of our local communities. So I have carried out some fieldwork to discover what my local problems "really" are. I did not have to search hard. They found me.

No sooner had I entered the high street than I spotted two ladies bearing down on me pushing a double push-chair, the sort in which whatever is inside is seated in lateral pairs and encased in steamed-up plastic like those tasteless Dutch cucumbers. The ladies were also deployed laterally with a gap of two feet between the push-chairs, too narrow to risk going between. Perhaps one lady would drop back, assume Indian file and allow me a little pavement? No. Into the gutter I jump as they sweep past.

I climb back on the pavement, turn and glare at the disappearing ladies who have noticed nothing. Thus I fail to notice another lady pushing a shopping trolley in a sort of zig-zag. It has a spike on the front which she rams into my foot. "Look out," she says. I do and count 16 trolleys, five double push-chairs and nine singles in the vicinity.

Singles can be worse than doubles: though not so wide, they are more manoeuvrable and hence more potential victims' view less predictable. At least - when you spot a double moving, you know it is unlikely to change course.

Shopping trolleys can be pushed or pulled. The important thing to remember about those pushed is not to stop suddenly when one is following you. This is not easy for they emerge behind you unpredictably from shop doors, usually just at the moment a pulled version stops without warning ahead of you. By some feat of engineering both spikes simultaneously find their marks, one in each ankle. The trolleys are overloaded and an instant mix of cat litter and frosties is scattered over the pavement...

Shaken, I enter the building society. There are two queues. It is not wise to join the shorter. It consists of a lady who has two children, Sharon and Wayne, who have been hiding under a table. Just as you think she's finished, they emerge clutching plastic models of a building society branch office, stuffed with one penny pieces. No, they do not know how many pennies they have got.

Would they like the cashier to count them, asks the cashier. Would they like the cashier to count them, repeats the mummy. They would.

She does. I join the other queue which is now even longer because of something to do with a man who needs his wife's signature "and she is in Leicester". The cashiers are commendably patient. Everyone except me seems to be enjoying it.

Next, to the post office to buy a stamp. The machine does not work. Apparently I am the only person who has passed money across the counter in a clerk-wise direction this morning. The lady in front of me receives a huge pile of notes. I meet her again in the supermarket at the check-out. I am pleased with myself, she only has half a dozen items. "That will be eleven pounds sixty-two," says the girl. The lady repeats the figures and adds, "I'll have to pay by cheque". Then follows a full five minutes rummaging. The chequebook is in a handbag which is in a carrier which is in a holdall. It is eventually produced.

"Do you have a cheque card, Madam?" Madam has dutifully kept that separate from the chequebook, but where? "Silly me, I don't have to pay by cheque at all. I've got plenty of notes. I have just been to the post office for my allowance, haven't I?" She has.

Meanwhile I have been gloomily gazing at the contents of her supermarket trolley and trying to work out via my knowledge of child benefit and income tax levels precisely which items I have bought for her. It's not just the money. It niggles an involuntarily beneficent gentleman to see his beneficiary spending his earnings on sweet British wine.

There you are, and that's the product of only an hour. It should however be quite enough to keep the Liberals happily debating, though what they will do about it all I don't know. I suppose there are people out there enough to propose state licensing of push-chairs and a driving test for trolleys (two parts, pushing and pulling); they were quick enough to demand that Sir Clive Sinclair's battery-driven trolley be taxed, certificated and controlled out of existence.

The only answer I can think of is that we victims should swear loudly and glare more reproachfully who knows, if from tomorrow we all resolve to be more demonstrative disapproving, we might win. Or, second thoughts if I borrow a play model building society box and send it might be able to afford, trolley of my own.

The author is Director of The Social Affairs Unit.



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VICIOUS MARKET CIRCLE

We have seen a scene change in the great moving history of the world's monetary system. For just over a decade, we have been learning what computer-fed, 24-hour speculative markets can do to national exchange rates, and through them to national economies. The lesson is not ended. Given the breadth and depth of these markets, the wonder is not that they should have shifted the pound from \$2.40 to \$1.10 in four years, but that fluctuations in all major currencies were not even more violent.

Now we have seen the major economic powers take a step back towards a system in which they attempt on occasion to manage the world's most important currency - the dollar. In the British Chancellor's words, the new agreement on concerted currency intervention reached in Washington two weeks ago was designed to demonstrate that speculation could be a two-way risk. It is far too soon to judge whether this will prove significant, let alone whether it would have any chance of real success; the parties to the pact all have such obvious needs to interpret it differently. But whatever else it may turn out to mean, it is emphatically not an agreement to "save the pound".

Thus sterling, and its Government, will have to sink or swim in these turbulent waters with only limited international support - a task made no easier by uncertainty over oil prices and the self-destructive obstinacy of the leaders of Britain's striking miners. Mr Nigel Lawson may fairly complain that to treat the pound as a petrocurrency devalues the 95 per cent of Britain's economy which does not consist of oil, while coal accounts for only one-and-a-half per cent. But markets need only marginal reasons for choosing between currencies; while question marks still remain over the Government's handling of the remaining nineteen-twentieths of its economic territory.

First, its policy towards the exchange rate itself. Until ster-

ling came under severe midsummer pressure, it was not wholly clear whether the Government had effectively chosen to shadow the other main European currencies, declining against the dollar at much the same rate. As we said at the time, the Chancellor faced a choice between more open pursuit of this position of relative sterling stability, or the pursuit of low interest rates, constrained only by his domestic monetary targets, with whatever consequences for the exchange rate.

The Government chose the latter course, and it has not enjoyed the consequences. It was not an obviously foolish choice; lower interest rates and a lower pound have helped industry, and it is no coincidence that yesterday's new survey by the Confederation of British Industry (taken before the latest rise in rates) should suggest the best export prospects for seven years. But it was always a risky one, and one from which it is not proving easy for the Chancellor to turn back.

Striving to demonstrate that policy has not changed, Mr Lawson reminds us that the Thatcher Government cut interest rates to damp down the pound's rise in 1980, even though domestic monetary indicators did not suggest they should come down: there is nothing new, he argues, in its present focus on the exchange rate as the dominant indicator of monetary conditions. But this chop-and-change between indicators is precisely the kind of "flexibility" that suspicious markets will read as shiftness. What's more, the cases are not parallel. For - so the Chancellor now says - over the past month there has grown up in the markets unease about domestic monetary indicators too.

It is this vicious circle of market sentiment about the Government's financial intentions, and the Government's seeming acceptance of the market's doubts, which have done most damage - and for which a price must now be paid. For in

these conditions, there is no tendency in the market to accept the most favourable of the battery of monetary indicators stuck up by the Chancellor, and every inducement to watch the worst. These show a substantial over-run on public spending and borrowing this year; monetary growth bumping along the top of the target range; and an incomplete and barely credible set of public spending projections for next year.

Mr Lawson's first demonstration of financial firmness - a steep rise in interest rates, which the markets are still threatening to take further - will have very little short-term influence on monetary growth. Thus the focus shifts to the budgetary side of his policy.

The rise in interest rates will increase the Government's burden of debt interest, for which a credible allowance must be made in the budget. If the Chancellor took no other action, that would still imply that much less scope for tax cuts within his £7 billion target for the public sector borrowing requirement. A demonstration of greater firmness would be to lower that target itself. But this year's failures followed a precisely similar attempt last spring to demonstrate commitment by producing a lower-than-expected target for the PSBR, which has now been obviously overshoot.

The lesson is that markets are less impressed by targets than by achievements; and it is about these that they are expressing disappointment. For the Chancellor, this means he must now concentrate on improving the credibility of his figures, which in turn means that before abandoning the attempt to cut taxes, he should announce that he is going to review, and lower, public spending programmes to allow more realistic margins for error. The message for his spending colleagues is that the Government should tackle the root causes of financial failure, rather than supinely accept its consequences.

SALE OF HONOURS

There is no possible argument on which the decision by the congregation of Oxford University to refuse Mrs Thatcher the proposed honorary degree is worthy of respect. It is the culmination of a nasty campaign which has oscillated between political spite and logic-chopping. Every Oxford graduate, of whatever party, who has previously attained the high office of Prime Minister since the war has been awarded an honorary doctorate. Mrs Thatcher alone has been refused because the dons campaigning against her resent her government's policies and particularly those which affect education. By doing so, Oxford has made it clear that an honorary doctorate for anyone in public life who is concerned with politics is now no more than a political award.

That, of course, is the opposite of the way in which the case has been presented. Though the Oxford anti-Thatcher campaign began very much as an exercise by militantly left-wing dons it has gathered other and apparently more respectable support which objects to the award on the grounds that the Government's policies have damaged higher education. Thus Sir Kenneth Dover, the President of Corpus Christi, argues that since the tradition of giving this honour to Prime Ministers was established, the whole situation

has changed because governments now have more and more control over university policy.

Therefore, he concluded with idiosyncratic logic, it was impossible to give an honorary degree without supporting these policies and Mrs Thatcher should not have one. But that, of course, leads to a further, and more impeccably logical conclusion: that any future Prime Minister to whom the donnish majority was prepared to give an honorary doctorate would be one whose policies found favour with them. To escape from the difficulty that an Oxford honorary doctorate was a seal of political approval, Sir Kenneth, like some of the Marxist dons who spearheaded this campaign, says that no politician should be so honoured, and that such doctorates should go only to people who have achieved distinction in scholarship, the arts or the sciences.

Where this leaves a distinguished economist who is a monetarist (or if the political thoughts of the Oxford majority changed) a Keynesian is now also surely a matter for Oxford. Indeed, where is it going to draw a distinction between those in public life too tarnished by political activities to merit an award and those who do qualify?

Even the argument that the Government's policies have damaged education is flawed.

Mrs Thatcher has cut education. Yet total spending on education in 1979/80 was £13,613 million at today's prices. This year it is £13,753 million. Current spending on universities has risen from £1,194 million in 1978/80 (at today's prices) to £1,338 million in the current year and although it will fall somewhat in the next three years it will still be more than when Mrs Thatcher took over. As for Oxford itself, its total cash income was £69 million in 1979/80 (today's prices) and is nearly £71 million this year, which is at least no deprivation.

Always eager to raise money through the college connections for new quadrangles and for the upkeep of gardens, Oxford is less assiduous in trying to attract private money to the university's academic work, which of course is what it should do if it dislikes the Government's control over its policies because the Government provides the money. What seems to lie behind this sorry business is that Oxford now sells its honours, giving doctorates when the Government provides money enough, and not otherwise. For there is not the slightest doubt that Mrs Thatcher's case would not have precipitated a change of principle had the Government been prepared to make an exception for education, proffering a cornucopia.

ATONING FOR AN AUSTRIAN MISTAKE

"I admit I made a mistake." That statement from Herr Friedrich Frischenschlager, the Austrian defence minister, has apparently satisfied his cabinet colleagues that no further political consequences need flow from his extraordinary action last week, in going personally to welcome a Nazi war criminal repatriated to Austria on humanitarian grounds by the Italian government. We shall know on Friday whether it satisfies the Austrian parliament. The cabinet decision has the effect of associating the government as a whole with Herr Frischenschlager, even while formally dissociating it from his mistake.

The Chancellor, Dr Fred Sinowatz, also used the phrase "political mistake" to describe Herr Frischenschlager's action in his speech to the World Jewish Congress on Saturday. It by no means fully satisfied many of his audience there, and understandably so. It may be objected that the victims of Walter Roder, the former SS officer at the centre of the dispute, were non-Jewish Italians. But that is to miss the point. Jews quite naturally have

a special horror of Nazism in all its forms, and it would have been as culpable of the WJC to feel itself unconcerned by this gesture - made by a member of the government of the country in which, at that very moment, it was meeting - as it would of a gentle body in analogous circumstances to feel unconcerned by an incident involving Jews.

There are some mistakes for which an apology cannot atone. When a member of the American government makes an off-colour joke about members of ethnic or other minorities in front of reporters, that is obviously in one sense a "mistake", but he does not get away with an apology. He has to resign - as does a senior British police officer who refers publicly to black people as "niggers". The reason is that such "mistakes" reveal something about the person making them which renders him unfit for the office he holds. And Herr Frischenschlager makes things worse for himself, not better, when he says that his presence with Roder last Thursday "was limited to a purely personal capacity", because the issue is, precisely, what

sort of person he is. Is he, in fact, the shining new anti-Nazi face of the Austrian Freedom Party, as implied by the letter on this page from Mr T. D. Bridge? Or does his action betray the fact that in reality the new face of this party is not sufficiently different from the old?

Austria has an ambivalent relationship with the Nazi past. Officially it has always been regarded as "the first country to fall victim to Nazi aggression", and of course it is true that many Austrians honourably, even heroically, resisted the *anschluss* and the ensuing Nazi rule. But many welcomed it, and fought enthusiastically as Germans in the Wehrmacht during World War Two. By and large, the world accepts that the Austria of today represents the former rather than the latter, and the willingness of the WJC to meet in Vienna is evidence of that. But the presence of someone like Herr Frischenschlager in the government inevitably casts doubt on that assumption, and is bound to place a strain on the relations between Austria and those who would like to be her friends.

Impact of cuts on farm efficiency

From Sir Ralph Riley, FRS

Sir, The Government proposes that investments in the agriculture departments in agricultural and food research and development shall be reduced by £10m in 1986/87 and by £20m in 1987/88. This means that by 1987 there will be approximately 10 per cent less R & D than currently.

Cuts may have been proposed because of the marvellous increase in UK agricultural production. British farming provided 80 per cent of the temperate foods we ate in 1984 compared with just over 60 per cent in 1973. The increase resulted from the stimulus of the market, partly as a consequence of central intervention, and the perspicacity and skill of farmers and farm workers. However, these would not have been sufficient unless there had been new knowledge from civil science and technology to apply.

Different issues now face agriculture. We require significantly to increase the competitiveness and efficiency of production rather than its volume; to sustain the effective use of land and practise farming in ways that do not offend the increasing "green" sensitivities; and to ensure that the cost of imported food does not become an insupportable burden on our balance of payments when the contribution from oil diminishes.

These are new objectives for agricultural research in changed economic and social conditions. Scientists who have so successfully assisted the nation to achieve increased production can be expected to contribute equally effectively to the new goals. Short-term savings could destroy this valuable capability.

If the new cuts are implemented, the spend per head of the population on agricultural and food R & D in the UK would be lower than that of all other Community countries except Greece and Italy. Is that acceptable?

Your faithfully,
RALPH RILEY,
Deputy Chairman and Secretary,
Agricultural and Food Research Council,
160 Great Portland Street, W1,
January 22.

Hitler and the Jews

From Mr Clive D. Greidinger

Sir, Today (January 19) you give prominence to a news report with the bold headline, "Zionists accused of working with Nazis". If one reads the report one learns, in the fifth paragraph, that "the official Soviet media frequently attack Zionism", and in the last paragraph, the eleventh, that Tass, whose report you are reporting, states that its author has published several anti-Zionist works.

The accusation is not new. It has been kicked around by anti-Zionists and anti-Semites for years. I do not know if a Jewish-owned bank lent Hitler money in 1929: I do know that Hitler did not achieve power until 1933 and that it was a while after that before the world in general and Jewry in particular realised the full evil of the man and his regime. Thus to cite such a loan as evidence of the accusation can only be proof of its weakness.

What is important about the report is that it comes at a time when the Soviets are supposed to be about to join with the USA to consider the situation in the Middle East.

The accusation is grotesque and untrue but a casual reader might feel that you are giving currency to it. You might care to scotch that idea without delay.

Your faithfully,
CLIVE D. GREIDINGER,
3 Delamere Gardens, NW1,
January 19.

Children at work

From Mrs S. Gable

Sir, Digby Anderson (January 23) has most admirably reported the good news about the large numbers of children who have grasped so keenly the employment opportunities open to them. So why does he go on at length drawing the inevitable conclusions?

As the experience gained by doing a job will be so much more useful to working-class children than attendance at school, where they are "unfulfilled", why make them go to school at all? Think of all the public money that could be saved by reducing the school-leaving age to 10, say.

And since working children do not join trade unions and go on strike, what an opportunity to settle the miners' strike - by dismissing all the adults and letting the job be done by willing 10-year-olds.

Now where have I seen that before?
Yours faithfully,
S. GABLE,
37b New Cavendish Street, W1,
January 23.

Right of appeal

From Sir Patrick Browne, QC

Sir, As a former Queen's Bench judge and member of the Court of Appeal I had a good deal of experience of administrative law. I wish to support with all the emphasis I can command, the letter from Professor Graham Zeilik and other members of the Editorial Board of Public Law in your issue of January 14 about the proposal in the Administration of Justice Bill to abolish the right of appeal from a refusal by a single judge of leave to apply for judicial review.

Until the decisions of the House of Lords in *O'Reilly v Mackman* and *Cocks v Thanet District Council*

Austrian furor over Nazi's release

From Mr T. D. Bridge

Sir, I met Dr Friedrich Frischenschlager, the Austrian Minister of Defence, recently and like many of your readers, was surprised by the events that took place last week (report, January 28). I am working on a project for the Austrian Army, and whilst the Austrian Chancellor, Herr Sinowatz, has apologized to the World Jewish Council, I have obtained further information which may be of interest to your readers.

The health of the former SS Major Roder has been the subject of discussion between the Austrian and Italian governments for some time and for humanitarian reasons it was agreed, several weeks ago, that Roder should be released five months before the end of his sentence. Both governments saw it as a case of a repentant, sick old man who wanted to die in his own country.

A confidential agreement was reached between the two governments. Italy stipulated four conditions. These were:
1. Roder was to be taken into Austria by an official representative of the Austrian Government. Thus the Italian Government made Austria responsible for the security of Roder, so that he could not immediately return to private life in Austria.

2. No information was to be published in advance of Roder's arrival, since neither Government wanted the matter to be on anything other than a humanitarian basis.

3. Roder, for the first 10 days after his arrival in Austria, was to be kept in a secure place with no access to the public.

4. Italy and Austria were to issue a simultaneous press release on

Thursday, January 24, at 7.15 pm announcing Roder's arrival in Austria. No further statements would then be published.

I understand that neither government wanted any publicity, let alone glamour, attached to Roder's record of wickedness and that the Austrian Foreign Ministry asked their Ministry of Defence to handle the matter because, in technical terms, Roder is still a prisoner of war.

The Austrians felt that it was most important to observe the Italian conditions to the letter. It was for this reason that Dr Frischenschlager decided to personally oversee the detail.

Dr Frischenschlager has unequivocally condemned the atrocities that occurred in Italy and elsewhere in the last war. Shortly after being made Minister of Defence in 1983, he ordered that a passing-out parade of Austrian Army recruits should take place, for the first time, on the site of the infamous Mauthausen concentration camp in which thousands of people were murdered by the Nazis.

The Austrian President was amongst the company who heard him say:

"Normally, such a parade would be a routine ceremony, held to the applause of all present, but not at such a terrible place as this. I wanted to have the parade here to remind our young people of the democratic values which we hold to be so important and for which so many people suffered and died here at Mauthausen camp... People are still suffering and dying elsewhere in the world in defence of those same basic freedoms."

Yours faithfully,
T. D. BRIDGE,
Army Quarterly and Defence Journal,
1 West Street, Tavistock, Devon.

How to compromise on air traffic

From Sir Peter G. Masfield

Sir, Having been closely involved, during the past 42 years, in 11 successive, public and departmental inquiries on the evocative subject of airports for London and the South-east, may I pay tribute to the latest (and best) contribution to this saga - the comprehensive, 62 chapter report by Mr Graham Eyre, QC, following his 258 working days of public hearings between September, 1981, and July, 1983.

From this studious and well-balanced analysis six issues clearly emerge, all of them of the highest importance to our future national trade, international standing and balance of payments in world air transport. "The years that the locust hath eaten" cannot be restored, but they now pose for us decisions that cannot be further delayed. They are:
1. That on, what can be seen as, increasingly conservative estimates for continued traffic growth, capacity at both Heathrow and Gatwick airports will become saturated at the latest by 1991 (at some 60 million passengers a year) and, unless additional runway and terminal capacity is provided elsewhere, international air traffic and trade will be lost to the nearer Continental destinations, probably never to return.

2. Traffic through regional airports (currently at some 22 million a year) will undoubtedly increase substantially, and by 1991, is likely to exceed 30 million passengers. But, important as these regional airports are to the future, they cannot meet the demands of traffic essentially destined to and from the South-east. Experience has shown that if forced away by overcrowding at London's airports, this traffic will divert primarily to the Continent rather than to elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

3. As things have now come about, only Stansted can be developed sufficiently quickly (using its present, excellent, runway) to meet the

inevitable demand for additional airport capacity for London and the South-east by 1991. The requirement for growth at Stansted can, however, be limited to its existing runway and, for the present, to a relatively modest new terminal for up to five million passengers per annum (principally for charter traffic) provided that a terminal five is authorised on the existing space occupied by the Perry Oaks sludge works between the runways at Heathrow, of no value to the green belt but close to M25.

4. By 1995 the probable demand for not less than 75 million passengers per annum (mppa) through London's four major airports could then be handled by the following approximate division: 47 mppa at Heathrow through five terminals; 21 mppa at Gatwick through two terminals; 4 mppa at Stansted through one terminal; 3 mppa at Luton through one terminal.

5. Not to make full use of the existing runway capacity at Heathrow would be a serious under-utilisation of scarce national resources. But by the early 1990s there will be a significant further reduction in aircraft noise and, even with increased traffic, fewer people will be affected around major airports.

6. Though, with five terminals, Heathrow could handle eventually up to 53 mppa, further decisions will have to be taken for the provision of additional capacity after the end of this century. Because history has shown that some 12 years must elapse between an inquiry and the fruits of its work, a further public inquiry will have to be contemplated by 1988. It will thus maintain the historic average of one every four years.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MASEFIELD,
Rosehill,
Doods Way,
Reigate, Surrey,
January 24.

"Sunny Scunny"

From Mr Richard Hickmet, MP for

Glasgow and Scunthorpe (Conservative)

Sir, I wonder if you appreciate the damage which the article by Jeremy Seabrook (feature, January 12) did to Scunthorpe and to my constituents.

One will always find a handful of life's unfortunates in any part of the country. Your Correspondent did not wish to go to Scunthorpe, nor was it correct for him to represent those unfortunates there as representative of the people in the town as a whole, or indeed in part.

Scunthorpe, which has developed areas of status and qualities for European aid, is now the most attractive region in the country in which to invest. It is strategically placed, being situated on the Trent, the wharves of which now handle more cargo than the port of Hull; the deep-water port of Immingham is 20 miles away by motorway.

Your correspondent failed to mention that the town produces as much steel today as it did in 1981 when the world recession, world over-capacity in steel and Britain's uncompetitiveness forced the closure of one of our two steelworks and 11,000 redundancies. Already significant investment is taking place in the enterprise zones, with over 400 new jobs being announced in the very week that you published the article.

I am only too well aware of the hardship that exists in "Sunny Scunny", but your Correspondent would have served the interests of Scunthorpe better and those of its people if he had highlighted the positive aspects.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD HICKMET,
House of Commons,
January 19.

VAT on books

From Mrs Hilary Bradt

Sir, If the Net Book Agreement (price maintenance) is abolished, as Mr Fuller (January 19) suggests, books would not be cheaper. Only publishers of popular titles in the United States can afford the 60 per cent discount demanded by the big discount chains such as B. Dalton.

Such books are already cheap in Britain. More specialised books, selling in smaller numbers, are bound to be more expensive, both in Britain and the US.

Mr Fuller has misread the causes of the lively book business he noted across the Atlantic. Small book-sellers and publishers are fighting for survival: not waving but drowning.

Yours faithfully,
HILARY BRADT,
Kilnside,
Harvest Hill,
Bourne End,
Buckinghamshire.

plaintiff in an action for a declaration did not need leave. It is well established that an applicant for leave to apply for judicial review can at present appeal to the Court of Appeal against the refusal of leave by the single judge.

I am bound to say that this proposed further handicapping on citizens who wish to challenge decisions of public authorities or tribunals - again by taking away a well established right - seems to me intolerable, and I can only hope that Parliament will reject it.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
PATRICK BROWNE,
Thriplow Bury,
Thriplow,
Cambridgeshire.

ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 30 1871

The Franco-Prussian war had its origins in the growing power of Prussia in the latter half of the nineteenth century. The proposal that Prince Leopold of Hohenzollern, Signaringen should be considered for the vacant throne of Spain, precipitated French fears of becoming encircled by enemies; war was declared in July 1870.

THE CAPITULATION OF PARIS

FOREIGN OFFICE, JAN. 29.

The following telegram has been received from General Weyler, dated Versailles, January 29, 11.25 a.m.:

"An Armistice of 21 days.

"A Constituent Assembly will immediately be called together in Bordeaux.

"The whole of the Forts will be surrendered to-day.

"The army remain in Paris as prisoners of war. All arms, with the exception of those of the National Guard and one Division, will be delivered up.

"Communication with Paris will be provisionally restricted. Re-visitations allowed."

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

BERLIN, JAN. 29.

According to a telegram from Count Bismarck, dated yesterday, he has signed with M. Jules Favre the Capitulation of all the Paris Forts, and three weeks Armistice by land and sea.

The Paris army remains in the city as prisoners of war.

(BY TELEGRAPH)

FROM OUR BERLIN CORRESPONDENT

IMPERIAL HEAD-QUARTERS, VERSAILLES

JAN. 28.

The armistice before Paris has been suspended on both sides, according to agreement, since midnight on the 26th.

General Kettler, on the 23rd inst., advanced in the direction on Dijon, when he captured five officers and 150 men. The colour-bearer of the Second Battalion of the 61st Prussian Regiment was there shot in a night engagement in a wood, and the colour is missing.

Between Chailion and Montmorency detachments of the enemy have been seen.

(FROM OUR BERLIN CORRESPONDENT)

JAN. 28, 2 P.M.

IMPERIAL HEAD-QUARTERS, VERSAILLES

The following telegraphic despatch has just been sent by the Emperor to the Emperor:

"Last night an Armistice for three weeks was signed.

"The troops of the Line and the Mobiles will be interned in Paris as prisoners of war.

"The Garde Nationale Sedentaire undertakes the preservation of order.

"We occupy all the Forts.

"Paris remains invested. It will be allowed to procure provisions as soon as the arms have been delivered up.

"A Constituent Assembly will be summoned to meet at Bordeaux in a fortnight.

"The armies in the field retain the possession of the respective tracts of country occupied by them, with neutral zones intervening.

"This is the first blessed reward of patriotism, heroism, and heavy sacrifices. I thank God for this fresh mercy. May Peace soon follow!"

Round pounds

From the Reverend Andrew McIntosh

Sir, Like Mr Noble (January 19) I shall be sorry not to be able to flick a pound note at the bar. I am unlikely to be spending many pound coins on tipping porters (vide Mr Griffiths).

My biggest regret at the changeover is that the pound coin will not go through the slots in some of our church wall-boxes which are made (for obvious reasons) of toughened steel and do not respond to my attacks with a file. Many visitors have been generously disposed to put in pound notes and I fear that similar kindness in the future will be frustrated.

Perhaps, like London Transport, we should display a notice: "The following coins are accepted . . ." I am, yours faithfully,
ANDREW MCINTOSH,
St Mary's Rectory,
Park Drive,
Malden,
Essex.

Acid snow

From Dr T. D. Davies

Sir, Mr A. E. Doe (January 23) is quite right to point out the importance of snowmelt in the acid rain issue. The so-called "fractionation process" concentrates acid in the first meltwaters. Research is indeed being undertaken on the composition of snow, on the process whereby pollutants are removed from snowpacks and on the possible implications of the snowmelt "acid flush".

Nature, (November 1, 1984) reported a fall of heavily polluted snow in Scotland which was five times more acidic than Mr Doe's samples. The first meltwater from the recent snows which fell on Norfolk was four times more acidic than the fresh snow.

Yours sincerely,
T. D. DAVIES,
School of Environmental Sciences,
University of East Anglia,
Norwich,
January 23.

Down to earth

From Mrs William Moore

Sir, The bath extract which "revitalises my whole body" by searching deep down into my pores, with five vitamins, chlorophyll, the delicate scent of pine forests, and a special extract of horse-chestnuts" sadly does not offer me the additional mental invigoration of a chemistry lesson.

Yours faithfully,
MARY MOORE,
14 Dornden Drive,
Langton Green,
Kent.

THE ARTS

Television
Divided by birth

Ritual abounds in Ulster but, unfortunately, is not a unifying influence. The highlight of the film is the Twelfth and it was in the two days leading up to it, the day itself, and the day after, that Mike Leigh's film, *Four Days in July* (BBC1) was set.

Mr Leigh's technique requires a great deal from actors and his plots, such as they are, leave themselves open to a wide variety of interpretations. It is his view, apparently, that this film was pro-Republican. As one of its principal characters was a boorish, macho member of the Ulster Defence Regiment while his Republican opposite was a mild, likeable and unfortunate man, it could be taken to be so but it did not strike me as that over-weighted.

The message I received, neither new nor welcome, was of the futility of it all and it was the tragic injury to ordinary humanity which showed through.

The film followed two families, headed by the heroes mentioned above, on either side of the divide. The wives of both men are pregnant. It seemed predictable early on that they would come to their time

together and so they did, on the Twelfth. They were side by side in the maternity ward, their husbands juxtaposed in the waiting room.

After their labour, the women seemed to have initial rapport. One saw it dissipate when they exchanged the tell-tale names of their babies. In the waiting-room rapport never seemed possible, the burden for that falling on the UDR man.

He was soundly played in his unattractive cast by Charles Lawson. Des McAleer was his Catholic opposite. He did brilliantly, sustaining minute attention by the camera while manifesting the patience of a man whose has been shot twice, once by intent, once accidentally, and who is hobbling about on crutches, conditioned to ill-luck.

Their wives were played by Paula Hamilton and Brid Brennan respectively. The latter was superb. It was a film full of acute observation, sad humour, and ultimately, for the newborn, sad prospects. I thought Mr Leigh deserved his 95 minutes' indulgence. I have seen far more active plays say less. Kenneth Trodd produced.

Dennis Hackett

Galleries
Fresh
view of
an old
master

Renoir

Hayward Gallery

But what do you critics do, they all ask, when you have to write about a painter you are thoroughly prejudiced against? How do you manage to be objective? I have never liked Renoir since I saw the big show the Arts Council helped to arrange at the Edinburgh Festival in 1953, where I was surprised by the degree to which I was turned off (in the same way that, the next year, I was surprised by the degree to which I was turned on by Cézanne). I felt then that Renoir was coarse, sentimental and lacking in the sheer brainwork which must go to make a major painter: a handful of paintings that no one could wholly dislike or disregard did not make any noticeable difference.

So here we are, more than 30 years later, with another show put on by the Arts Council, this time with the sponsorship of IBM, at the Hayward Gallery, until April 21. A lot more paintings - apparently 126, though appearances are deceptive, as against 46 - and at quite a different point in the tide of time, art history and taste. Whether or not my dislike constitutes a prejudice, am I now able to demonstrate my "objectivity" by approaching nearer to (what sometimes seems to be) universal delight occasioned by Renoir's chocolate-box colours, his vast and porcine nudes, his haphazard way with composition?

Where those are concerned, no. It still seems to me that Renoir suffers from all these faults, and that there are more practically unbearable paintings in this show than one might expect to see in a comparable show of any other master generally and now for nearly a

century regarded as great. But what the show does achieve - even more important than showing us a few undoubtedly good Renoirs among the bad - is to show us that there are different Renoirs, other painters consistent with the painter we think we know. And to convince us, often, that they are far more appealing than the sloppy sensualist we are most familiar with.

We are put on our mettle as soon as we enter the first room. There on the left, number one in the catalogue, is the very early *Portrait of Mademoiselle Romaine Lacaux* of 1864: a little girl in grey and white, sitting very correct and upright, self-consciously grown-up in her earrings, which echo the colour of the flowers in her lap. She is not a "Renoir type", and does not look anything like the numerous indistinguishable Renoir children in the later works; she is painted crisply, almost primly, rather as Fantin-Latour might have seen her; the

picture is totally unsentimental. And as we go round the room that first happy surprise is repeated, with variations: the pictures of *Frederic Bazille at his easel* is also a harmony in grey; the two paintings which toy with Japonaiserie and feature similar oriental fans have acquired also an oriental exactitude of composition: the nudes are monumental rather than monstrous.

So this is the early work, which we might expect to be unexpected. But what happens when Renoir reaches the height of his powers, around the mid-1870s? Here, unfortunately, we encounter a different sort of problem. On the cover of the catalogue is a detail from the *Ball at the Moulin de la Galette*, and as we flick through we glimpse such other justly famous works as the *Luncheon of the Boating Party* (as distinct from the contemporary *Rovers' lunch*) and the *Grenouillere* from Stockholm. But actually to see them we have to wait till the

show arrives in Paris, which seems a bit mean: there are some warranted masterpieces, like *La loge*, the *Pont Neuf* and *The Umbrellas*, but such a once-in-a-lifetime affair should have more of the paintings that everybody expects to see there.

In compensation, however, there are a surprising number of paintings which are not familiar, and show Renoir through his middle years experimenting with other styles and other directions, and proving that he can do quite unexpected things very well.

We do not, for example, think of him much as a painter of men, but several of the portraits here are amazingly acute and fresh: the beautifully sober and perceptive double portrait of two of Durand-Ruel's sons, for instance, painted in the open air and evincing exactly that mixture of wistful uncertainty and just plain boredom that young adults in such a situation must feel: or the later portrait of one

Monsieur Germain, a dandyish and rather insecure young man who looks as if he is waiting to grow into his moustache, or even the very familiar and absolutely undisturbing portrait of Volland holding a Maillol statuette (which, interestingly enough, the catalogue does not like, dismissing it as "one of the least acute [of Volland portraits] either as a record of physiognomy or as an evocation of character"). One cannot help wondering if it did not assist Renoir to be painting men and so remain unaffected by either sentimentality or lubricity.

Other paintings which hint appealingly at ways Renoir might have taken but chose not to are *Children's Afternoon at Wargemont*, a family group painted in a light, flat style that verges on the knowingly primitive (1884), and the astounding landscape *La Roche-Guyon*, of about the same time, with its violent acid greens and its rich, tight application of paint which

at once suggests Gauguin. A painting aberrant in less agreeable ways is the late *Judgment of Paris* from Hiroshima (c.1913-14), a richly absurd piece of neo-classicism which now looks like a bold anticipation of *pittura colta* at its most kitschy. But like them or not, who would have thought the man, incorrigibly consistent as he mostly was, could have had so many alternative possibilities lurking inside him, ready to break out at least once or twice?

If you naturally share my reservations about Renoir, these new aspects will not make you change your mind, but they will probably make you respect him more, or just find him more interesting. And of course if you love Renoir anyhow, all this soul-searching will seem completely irrelevant: you will need no telling to do the best thing possible, which is simply to go and enjoy.

John Russell Taylor

John Voas

Concerts
Alicia de Larrocha
St John's/Radio 3

Lunchtime at St John's Smith Square on Monday offered an Iberian sandwich, and who better to serve it than Alicia de Larrocha? Her grace and sensitivity - undimmed as, incredibly, she approaches her sixth decade of public performance - still shine most brightly when she is interpreting her compatriots' music.

But what is this "Spanishness" that weiks this pianist so naturally to her cherished composers? A composite quality, perhaps. In three Soler sonatas it was a fiery impulsiveness that was uppermost, most obviously in her brilliantly varied treatment of the ubiquitous long trills. Sometimes these were drilled through the texture with needle-sharp clarity; elsewhere they were faded away with delicious wistfulness.

It is not too fanciful to hear this same national characteristic - a profuse melodic inventiveness anchored by the proud

rhythmic stamp of some Spanish dance rhythm - carried over the centuries to the Albéniz and Oscar Esplá pieces that Miss Larrocha played. In Esplá's 1949 *Sonata Española* dance metres are never far away, though they are contrasted with long, wayward melodies which float over impressionistic washes of arpeggios, before more aggressive dance elements assert themselves in the exuberant cascades and clusters of the magnificent finale.

This finale inspired the diminutive pianist to a virtuosic display of technique. Even at its most pyrotechnic, however, her musicianship was simultaneously working on a deeper level, alive to opportunities for subtle tonal shading or an apt and lyrical use of rubato. And it was this deeper musicianship that was most required in Federico Mompou's contemplative *Musica Calada*, Book 4 - where the notes are few but each bears an exquisite weight of feeling.

Richard Morrison

Polish NRSO/Wit
Barbican

The audience was small, but the welcome was large for the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra, making its first appearance in Britain since 1981. It is not easily memorable for any outstanding section or style - and so much the better. It makes its mark, rather, by a secure balance of distinctive solo voices (the trumpet's opening fanfare and vivid catatomb light in *Pictures at an Exhibition*) and sternly schooled ensemble (the lashing string articulation in Glinka's *Russian and Ludmilla Overture*).

The orchestra's director, Antoni Wit, is a champion of Lutoslawski, Szymanowski, and, not least, Penderecki, whose *Awakening of Jacob* he brought with him on Monday night. It is after the Auschwitz *Dies irae* and the *Luke Passion*, a slender, humble work. This is

not the mighty affirmation and promise of the Lord God of Israel, but, as the work's full title makes clear, the still, small voice of the subsequent epiphany: "Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not".

It is as well to know the scenario, for there is little else besides. The tone row contained in the opening brass chords is distributed through its chamber-musical groupings to one clearly-defined, lucidly achieved, and hyper-romantic end. Sonorities are as sparse and delicately balanced as the movement of breath: ocarinas create their framing mirages; each meeting of instrumental groups (there is never a tutti as such) draws the work upwards to its centre; each long glissando of shuddering cello or wailing piccolo sucks it down again. The inventive substance is slight; the suggestive idea is all; and its aural representation soon evaporates into the desert air.

Hilary Finch

Caroline Moorehead talks to Carlo Gebler about his first novel

Like mother, like father, like son

"I was sitting on the stairs in the hall, on the day we moved from Wicklow to Dublin, looking at the coloured glass over the fanlight. Blue, green, red, yellow, violet. I knew I was going to do something with pictures." Carlo Gebler was two, at the time. That certainty, and a similar one that he would write fiction, have not failed him. A graduate of the National Film School and director of several feature and documentary films, his first novel *The Eleventh Summer* appears tomorrow. It's not something he finds surprising. "I think most children have the feeling quite early about what their souls are going to turn out like. How they will develop. Whether life will be fair to them or not."

To the outside eye, life has been fair to Carlo Gebler. He is the son of Edna O'Brien. He grew up in Dublin, and later London. When his parents

parted, he and his brother spent time with both. Each summer came the "obligatory holidays with my Irish grandparents". He corrects himself: "That implies a penance, which it wasn't. Statutory." Carlo Gebler's manner is solid, deliberate. For the photographer he exchanged a brown patterned sweater, which had given him a student air, for a dark blue jacket, his favourite. Below it were dark blue trousers, and highly polished lace-up black shoes. He now became an affable young businessman. He is 30, with short, neat, curly hair and pale green eyes.

He is not immediately easy to talk to. If you ask the right question, it is like pressing a winning button: a rounded, considered answer is offered, in words selected with attention. If you don't, the sequence is disconcerting. Had he written anything before? "Yes. What was it?" An autobiographical novel. "Where was it?" "It lives in a bottom drawer." Was he going to do anything with it? "It will go on living there." And so on.

York University, where he read English, was not a success. He liked neither the campus nor the city. Found few friends and discovered that while having to produce essays with logical arguments he couldn't write his fiction. Did he stick it out?

"Absolutely." He gave a small smile. "Like everyone else I knew that unless I got my BA I wouldn't have an American Express card, a Volvo and 2.8 children."

The National Film School, by contrast, gave him everything he had missed. He had the good time that students are supposed to have. And he started writing scripts. When he left, in 1979, he was asked to make a documentary for Channel 4.

It was during the doldrum months that followed the first post graduation burst of work that he was sent to take some photographs of an Irish family, four people in their forties who had been adopted as babies and grew up in separate homes never knowing of each other's existence until a friend brought them together. Carlo Gebler was there the day they met.

There was something in the way they spoke to each other. Their voices. It brought back smells, sensations, tastes. "Out of the day came what started as a short story about a boy and his grandfather. Then, as I was doing it, I thought: 'hang on, this isn't the end of the tunnel; I've just stepped into it.' Why, since Carlo Gebler had spent so much of his life in Ireland was this encounter so different? It's a mystery. Perhaps because they didn't know me. All day long they had an intense self-revelatory conversation at

which I was a privileged eavesdropper." *The Eleventh Summer* took a "symbolic nine months". He is now well into a new book, about a Pole living in London. "At least, that's what it's about today."

His father is also a novelist. A family of writers has it weighed on him? "As children we were aware that my mother was a writer, in the same way that we knew our address. But she was the person who fed us and bought us comics. The sense of her as a mother was prevailing and dominant; the sense of her as a creator not strong." It follows that Carlo Gebler has not read his mother's novels, except for *Girls in their Married Bliss* - he had a little trouble recalling the title - and that was only because she wanted advice about the film script. He feels the decision not to is the right one, because it avoids all risk of unconscious plagiarism. "Someone close to you is bound to draw on the same experience. You could plagiarise without being aware." He feels that, in any case, simply by being around them, he picked up the content of his parents' novels.

Four years ago, on Christmas Day, he took a lease on a top floor flat in a heavy Victorian house in Maida Vale. He has now bought it. Long windows in the sitting room look out over a triangular communal garden, of impeccable neatness. It is here



Carlo Gebler: "One is obliged to write"

that, when not with friends in Dublin, he spends his time. "I'm quite idle really. I read a lot of novels. I learn ballads, proper Irish ones. I suppose I probably go out a great deal. I have a lot of friends, really a lot." And it is here that he writes. Writing, he says, is essential if you are going to make films. You need something private if you're going in for such a social and public

activity. It's also useful. "If you go to a producer and he asks you what you're doing, if you can say you write, it separates you from all the other hungry film makers." But that's not why he really writes. "The reason is, one is obliged to. One prefers to."

The Eleventh Summer is published tomorrow by Hamish Hamilton, price £8.95.

An uproarious evening
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Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

BRITISH FUNDS

1984/85 High Low Stock Price Change Int. Gross

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1984/85 High Low Stock Price Change Int. Gross

1984/85 High Low Stock Price Change Int. Gross

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1984/85 High Low Stock Price Change Int. Gross

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Markets fall again

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings, Began, Jan 28. Dealings End, Feb 8. Contango Day, Feb 11. Settlement Day, Feb 18.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

1984/85 High Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
	Chemicals, Plastics				
	Alfred Colloids				
	Wiggins				
	Stewart Plast				
	Canary (W)				
	Plas				
	Canary Bros				
	Cory (Hosier)				
	Laporte				
	Amersham				
	Alfred Lyons				
	Develco (A)				
	Gilman (A)				
	Scott & New				
	Brown (Matthew)				
	Vaux				
	Greenall Whaley				
	Clark (Matthew)				
	Balmer (HP)				
	Whitbread (A)				
	Agarwood (A)				
	Lee Cooper				
	Courts (Furn)				
	Home Charn				
	Empire Stores				
	Saint (FH)				
	Esau				
	Br Home Stores				
	Debenhams				
	Continental English				
	Building and Roads				
	Carry (J) Doncaster				
	Abertan Cottar				
	Magnet & South				
	May & Hassell				
	Western Bros				
	Brown & Jackson				
	Moslem (John)				
	Crouch (Dev)				
	Gleason (A)				
	Arco				

1984/85 High Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
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	Alfred Colloids				
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	Canary Bros				
	Cory (Hosier)				
	Laporte				
	Amersham				
	Alfred Lyons				
	Develco (A)				
	Gilman (A)				
	Scott & New				
	Brown (Matthew)				
	Vaux				
	Greenall Whaley				
	Clark (Matthew)				
	Balmer (HP)				
	Whitbread (A)				
	Agarwood (A)				
	Lee Cooper				
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	Western Bros				
	Brown & Jackson				
	Moslem (John)				
	Crouch (Dev)				
	Gleason (A)				
	Arco				

198	283	Chemicals, Plastics			
199	283	Alfred Colloids	187	27	29.3
200	283	Wiggins	202	81	29.0
201	283	Stewart Plast	160	3	29.0
202	283	Canary (W)	160	3	29.0
203	283	Plas	160	3	29.0
204	283	Canary Bros	160	3	29.0
205	283	Cory (Hosier)	160	3	29.0
206	283	Laporte	160	3	29.0
207	283	Amersham	160	3	29.0
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256	283	Stewart Plast	160	3	29.0
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437	283	Laporte	160	3	29.0
438	283	Amersham	160	3	29.0
439	283	Alfred Lyons	160		

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

White Paper fails to close legal loopholes

While yesterday's White Paper on financial services does much to tidy up the arrangements for supervising the City, it is impossible to avoid the conclusion that if legislation is enacted on the basis of the document, the financial vermin will still be allowed to scurry unhindered through the sewers. It is significant that these misgivings were to some extent shared last night by Professor Lawrence "Jim" Gower, whose review of investor protection laid the foundations for the present exercise.

The Government's riposte to such criticism is that the new law will be so flexible that the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry will be able to block any unforeseen rat runs without having to enact fresh legislation. That will place an even greater burden on the chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, who will in any case have his work cut out enforcing the White Paper's grandly-stated Rules for the Conduct of Business.

It is indeed a fundamental weakness of the proposals that they rely so heavily on the personal abilities of the person occupying this post. Should at any time a candidate of the highest calibre not be forthcoming - and, of course, there can be no guarantee that such paragons will always be available - then investors will have to look to the principle of caveat emptor with a vengeance.

The White Paper does recommend that the SIB should operate in tandem with a Marketing of Investments Board covering prepackaged investments like unit trusts, life insurance and pensions. But they will share premises, and the Government is prepared to accept their being merged, as *The Times* has consistently argued.

These bodies will be set up by the DTI. In a piece of sheer Gilbert and Sullivan, the Secretary of State will appoint the chairman of the SIB with the agreement of the Governor of the Bank of England, while the Governor of the Bank will appoint the other board members - with the agreement of the Secretary of State. This is an inelegant compromise born of what is believed to have been a lively backstairs squabble between the Bank and the DTI.

The two boards will have considerable powers of patronage. Everyone who wants to carry on an investment business will have to obtain a licence from the relevant board, which will charge them however it pleases to meet its own running costs. The boards will recognize certain self-regulatory organizations, such as the Stock Exchange, to supervise on a day-to-day basis.

But no practitioner need be a member of these inferior bodies; instead, he or she can choose to come under the direct control of the boards. This may have the effect of weakening the lesser bodies and

fragmenting some financial markets.

For example, some licensed dealers are opposed to the National Association of Security Dealers and Investment Managers, and will now be free to stay outside its portals. And the possibility is raised that foreign securities houses interested in operating in this country will opt for direct licensing. Merrill Lynch and Nomura Securities will not need to join the Stock Exchange.

That need not in itself matter to anyone except the Stock Exchange Council. But it will complicate the thorny question of compensation for investors whose adviser goes bust. There may have to be some variation of the bonding system used in the travel trade.

This will be all very well as far as it goes for investors who stick to the tried and tested types of securities. The White Paper, through the exemptions it proposes, will give unscrupulous advisers and agents a strong incentive to tempt their clients off the beaten track and into savings vehicles which will not count as investments under the new law.

These are to include a business offered for sale as a single entity and, more worryingly, any physical object. This is particularly unfortunate, as it is investment in tangibles which has been so glaringly open to abuse by slick salesmen. The difficulty is that there is no easy dividing line between objects bought wholly, partly or not at all as an investment.

A painting of a diamond necklace could fall into any of these categories, depending on the purchaser's intent. But that does not mean that the law should not try to address the problem.

The other vulnerable area of exemption covers financial journalists working for bona fide newspapers, while writers of tip sheets must be licensed. It is possible to adopt the Post Office definition of a newspaper, but readers of newspapers do often act on advice they glean there and may feel aggrieved at not being able to pursue those newspaper journalists whose advice turns sour.

For those practitioners caught in the net, the White Paper's Rules for the Conduct of Business will seem not unlike the admonitions for aspirants to the sainthood. However, the real nitty gritty, the definition of criminal behaviour, will be extremely hard to enforce, relying as it does on proof that the miscreant knowingly behaved in a manner likely to defraud, deceive or mislead.

That, like so much else in the document, will keep the lawyers busy for years to come. The tragedy is that investors are more likely to have to go to court to obtain satisfaction in future. The world of "My word is my bond" is fast being left behind.

Chancellor's narrow escape

Nigel Lawson has so far just escaped being labelled as the Chancellor of the Exchequer who presided over the highest level of real interest rates. But the record high in 1981, when Bank Rate was 6 per cent, albeit briefly, alongside a 6.5 per cent fall in the cost of living, somehow does not look as bad as the current situation.

The effects of today's real interest rate of about 9 per cent on business almost all promise to be negative.

According to the Treasury, interest rates have a direct and important effect on consumer spending. This has always been the view for spending on durable goods; now the Treasury's economists estimate that expenditure on non-durables is also affected because people save more.

The 4.5 per cent rise in base rates this month, if sustained, would reduce non-durable spending by up to 1.5 per cent within two years, on Treasury simulations published last summer.

If the normal effects of higher rates on

durable spending and investment, notably in housing, are added in, then the depressive impact of higher interest rates on the economy appears considerable. This month's base rate rise, if not reversed, could depress gross domestic product by 1.5 to 2 per cent in both 1985 and 1986.

The Confederation of British Industry, which published an optimistic industrial trends survey yesterday (taken before most of the rise in interest rates) has no doubts of the dangers to the recovery if the rise in rates is not quickly reversed.

The £1.2 billion cost of this month's rate rise in a full year must either be recouped in higher prices, choking off demand, or come out of profits and investment.

Naturally, we like to assume that 14 per cent base rates will last for weeks rather than months, let alone years. The climbdown from the present level could, however, be painfully slow.

Opec near to agreement on formula to reduce prices

From David Young, Geneva.

A new pricing formula will be officially announced by Opec today, paving the way for Britain to set new prices for its North Sea oil.

The 13-member ministerial council of Opec yesterday agreed that the present \$4 price span between its heavy and light crude oil should be narrowed, but in a move which typifies the organization's committee to work out details of how much the effective price cut will be.

The subcommittee, chaired by the Opec president, Dr Subroto of Indonesia, and made up of Qatar and Kuwait, representing the Gulf heavy oil producers, and Libya and Nigeria representing the light oil producers, has now come up with a formula which it is

hoped will be accepted by the full Opec council.

However, there is still speculation that the psychologically important Opec benchmark price of \$29 will remain, but with the present marker crude Arab light oil being replaced by one of the ultra light crudes. The effect would be a cut in real terms of world oil prices.

Dr Subroto said yesterday that there is now agreement on differentials. The likeliest outcome is that the price of light crudes will drop by \$1.60 a barrel.

The new price structure will move light crude prices downwards, but still above their present spot market prices.

However, the agreement will give Britain and Norway scope for price reductions in North

Sea oil without provoking suggestions from Opec that they are undercutting.

Opec hopes that the new price structure, coupled with its latest daily output of nearer 14 million barrels, will have an immediate firming effect on world oil markets which are already pricing oil for summer delivery at close to the \$25 a barrel mark.

However, market dealers are suggesting that Opec's failure in Geneva to act decisively will not restore confidence in the cartel's ability to keep prices from falling further in the longer term.

The City remained nervous yesterday as developments were awaited from Geneva. Share prices fell again, with the FT 30-share index, down 25 points at

one stage, closing 16.6 down at 961.2.

The more representative 100-share index fell 16.5 to 1,249.3.

The fall came despite a steadier tone for the pound. Sterling gained 30 points to \$1.145 against the dollar, the sterling index rising 0.3 to 70.8.

Dealers said that the pound's progress depended on the impact of the Opec agreement, but that Monday's two point rise in base rates had taken the pressure off sterling.

The money markets, which opened higher, with some dealers predicting a rise in base rates to 16 or 17 per cent, settled down by the afternoon. The three-month interbank rate closed at 13½-13¾, below the new 14 per cent level for base rates.

Hanson fails in bid for Powell

By Jeremy Warner

Hanson Trust's £173 million bid for Powell Duffryn has failed. By 3pm yesterday, the six-for-the-share share exchange terms had received acceptance representing only 32.82 per cent of the fuel distribution to shipping, and engineering group's equity and the bid has lapsed as a consequence.

It is the first takeover failure that the fast growing Hanson has suffered since its bid for G H Downing, the brick manufacturer, was defeated in June 1981. Lord Hanson, the chairman, immediately dispatched a letter to his counterpart at Powell Duffryn, Lord Sandon, congratulating him on his company's spirited defence and wishing the company good fortune for the future.

Hanson also disposed of its existing 3.7 per cent stake in Powell.

Market observers took widely divergent views on the outcome of the takeover battle. Some saw



Lord Hanson: £173m takeover setback

it as a possible turning point for Hanson in that for the first time in many years institutional investors had turned their backs on an offer on Hanson shares. Another view was that it was evidence of the company's ability to walk away from a

takeover if it felt it was not getting a bargain.

Hanson's defeat is a notable success for Powell Duffryn's chief executive, Mr John Franklin, and the company's merchant bank adviser S G Warburg.

On the stock market, Powell Duffryn shares fell sharply when the result of the takeover battle became known to close 30p lower at 395p. Hanson Trust shares closed 2p lower at 218p.

One option Hanson failed to take advantage of and which might have tipped the result in its favour was its right to buy up to 15 per cent of Powell Duffryn shares through the stock market for cash. But Mr Taylor said Hanson was not prepared to pay the high cash price necessary for such a market operation.

Hanson's bid was also hit by the sharp fall in share prices that set in after the 2 per cent rise in bank base rates on Monday.

Warship yards may seek listing

By Jonathan Davis

The Government has not ruled out the possibility of floating one or more of British Shipbuilders' warship yards as an independent business on the stock market.

A crucial hurdle on the way to privatization of the yards has been cleared with the much delayed decision, announced on Monday, to place two Type 22 frigates orders for the Royal Navy at Cammell Laird and Swan Hunter, the two yards that would be the hardest to sell to the private sector.

British Shipbuilders and its merchant bank adviser, Lazard, are keeping an open mind about how the seven warship yards up for sale should be packaged. Individual sales remain the most likely option.

Despite its new order, the Cammell Laird yard at Birkenhead poses particular problems. The Department of Trade and Industry is believed to have been overruled by the Cabinet in awarding the yard the frigate order. A shopfloor revolt at Cammell Laird was a key factor in the decision.

One option is to offer Cammell Laird to the private sector as part of a package with the Vickers nuclear submarine yard at Barrow-in-Furness.

The Government, which hopes to complete the sell-off by the summer of next year, aims to raise at least £200 million to £250 million from the warship yards.

Guinness Peat to buy 25% of Britannia Arrow

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Guinness Peat has agreed to buy a significant stake in Britannia Arrow, the financial services group which owns Singer & Friedlander, from Britannia's main shareholder, United Kingdom Temperance and General Provident Institution.

The deal will ultimately give Guinness Peat 25.2 per cent of Britannia's equity in exchange for its own paper, leaving UKPI as a big shareholder in Guinness Peat.

Guinness Peat said it had no plans to bid for Britannia.

Mr Alastair Morton, chief executive, said the move was a good investment in retail

financial services and fund management, areas where Guinness Peat wanted to expand. He did not rule out the possibility of merger talks at some stage.

The deal appears to have come as an unwelcome surprise to Britannia.

Guinness Peat is issuing shares worth £33 million and £12 million nominal of 9 per cent subordinated convertible debt to UKPI in exchange for 34.3 million Britannia ordinary shares and £10 million convertible loan stock. It will end up with 23.5 per cent of Britannia or 25.2 per cent on conversion of loan stock.

Shake-up at World Bank offshoot

From Bailey Morris Washington

The British chief of the International Finance Corporation, the World Bank's private investment arm, has announced a shake-up of top management.

Sir William Rye, the former high-ranking Treasury official, has been the IFC's executive vice president for just four months. Yesterday he informed the staff of the changes which he said would streamline management and bring new skills to the agency during its five-year campaign to more than double private sector investment in Third World countries.

The IFC has undertaken an ambitious programme, at the prompting of its board and influential member nations of the bank, to try to inject new vitality into sluggish Third World economies by promoting a wide range of private projects to supplement foreign aid.

Sir William said in an interview that the old management structure was "top heavy", and therefore not up to the new task of introducing new technologies to the Third World, promoting growth of capital markets, and establishing stronger ties to international corporations eager to invest in developing countries.

He sees a new role and need for merchant banks to become more involved, for example.

Under the new system, operations will be consolidated under three key vice presidents reporting directly to Sir William. Two of these will be brought in from the outside. Africa will receive special attention under the direction of Mr Sven Riskær, a vice president who will develop a new long-term strategy for the region.

Mr Jadhvir Parmar has been given enlarged responsibilities as vice president of all investment operations, bringing more than six regional departments under his control.

In an attempt to establish closer ties to the corporate world, a new post of vice president for corporate affairs and development has been created.

A third new vice presidency for portfolio and finance management has been created, and Sir William said he plans to recruit a candidate from the private sector.

Unitary tax 'set to end'

California is likely to abolish unitary taxation of foreign companies by the middle of this year, Mr Dennis Brown, the assemblyman pushing an abolition bill through the state legislature, said yesterday.

Mr Ernest Dronenberg, chairman of the state board of equalization, which administers and collects taxes in California, said the bill would bring predictability back to the taxation of multinationals in California.

The British Government must decide by June whether to include a retaliatory clause in the Finance Bill. The US federal government has threatened to introduce legislation if no action is taken in California by mid-year.

Rank profit up

The Rank Organisation has increased pretax profits for the year to October 31 from £69.3 million to £105.3 million. Turnover fell from £742.9 million to £724.7 million. The final dividend of 7.2p makes 12p for the year, against 10p last time. *Tempus, page 19*

PCL buyout

The bosses of PCL, an in-house computer software business at the shipping group, P & O, are staging a management buy-out. The subsidiary, which is based at Rickmansworth in Hertfordshire and employs about 110, had turnover of £5 million last year. The deal is thought to be worth about £400,000.

Thorn EMI is boosting its computer software business by paying £2.4 million for EPS Consultants, which employs 300 people and claims to be the world's second largest supplier of support systems for mainframe microcomputers. Thorn will pay up to £3.3 million more depending on future profits. EPS earned £2 million on sales of £11.7 million last year and will be integrated into Thorn's computer software division, giving it total turnover of £30 million.

Cowan profit

Cowan, de Groot the toy importer and electrical wholesaler, made pretax profits up 7.5 per cent to £650,000 in the six months to October 31. The interim dividend was unchanged at 1p net. *Tempus, page 19*

Globe up 19%

Globe Investment Trust increased its investment income by 33 per cent to £25 million in the nine months to the end of December. Pretax profits increased 19 per cent to £18.6 million. *Tempus, page 19*

T & N chief

Mr Colin Hope, former Dunlop director, is taking over as group managing director of Turner and Newall in March.

Unit trust proposals welcomed

By Richard Thomson

The unit trust industry gave an enthusiastic welcome yesterday to the wider investment powers given to it in the Government's White Paper on investor protection. The White Paper proposes that authorized unit trusts should be allowed to offer a wider range of investments, equivalent to that already allowed to life assurance funds.

Mr Tony Smith, secretary of the Unit Trust Association, said: "We are greatly surprised that the permitted range of unit trust investments has been widened so far." His views were echoed by unit trust managers who welcomed the new marketing opportunity.

The investment areas specifically mentioned in the government document include money market instruments, property and commodities. Until now, these investments were deemed too risky for authorized unit trusts, whose money comes mainly from small investors. The industry has long wanted wider investment power but had not expected such big concessions.

The industry also welcomed the White Paper's suggestion that insurance companies should disclose the full cost of commissions they pay to brokers on their life assurance schemes.

Carless hopes of takeover recede

Prospects of Carless, Capel & Leonard mounting a new takeover bid for fellow oil explorer Premier Consolidated faded yesterday.

Carless announced that it was not taking up its entitlement to new shares as part of a £16 million cash offer from Premier, which will effectively dilute Carless's 15 per cent shareholding to around 11 per cent.

The holding is a legacy of Carless's unsuccessful £100 million bid for Premier, which

won only 32 per cent acceptance. Mr John Leonard, the Carless chairman, declined to say whether the decision meant he had abandoned any future bid intentions. "The difference between having 15 per cent or 11 per cent is neither here nor there if we were thinking of bidding again. There is no great advantage in taking up the rights." Nor would he say whether he planned to place the existing stake.

Mr Roland Shaw, the ebullient chairman of Premier whose spirited campaign won the support of its large contingent of small shareholders, said he now felt "a lot more comfortable" following the Carless decision.

He believed that the American arbitrage specialist Mr Ivan Bosky, who had also built up an 8 per cent holding in Premier at the time the bid failed, had also decided not to take up his rights.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind Ord	961.2 (-16.7)
FT-A All Share	1,249.3 (-16.5)
FT Govt Securities	78.40 (+0.39)
FT-SE 100	1,249.3 (-16.5)
Bargains	33,199
Dataseam USM	104.16 (-0.63)
New York Dow Jones	1,273.7 (-4.09)
Tokyo Nikkei Dow	11,843.07 (+44.21)
Hong Kong Hang Seng	1,338.07 (-38.02)
Amsterdam Amex	192.2 (-2.7)
Sydney AO	758.2 (+3.5)
Frankfurt Commerzbank	1147.2 (+5.7)
Brussels General	110.16 (-13.06)
Paris CAC	195.5 (-0.4)
Zurich SKA General	337.30 (+0.20)

GOLD

London fixing	am \$305.50pm \$305.25
close \$302.50-\$303	
New York	
Comex \$302.85	

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISER:	
Neapend	110 +40
Cifer	150 +20
Microgen Holdings	910p +100p
George Dew	86p +6p
Amstrad	78p +8p
Slebe	540p +41p
Microvitec	70p +5p
MJI Corp	15p +1p
FALLS:	
Espley Trust	18p -5p
Asoc Brit Eng	12p -2p
Harold Ingram	90p -15p
Mainmet Holdings	41p -5p
Britannia Arrow	99p -11p
Redream Glass	73p -7p
Newman Industries	16.5p -1.5p
GN Sparrow	33p -3p
Kean & Scott Holdings	57p -5p
Hunting Ass Inds	175p -15p
Breville Europe	12p -1p
Metal Sciences	12p -1p
Raybeck	24p -2p
Powell Duffryn	385p -30p
Seville Gordon	85p -7p
Audiotronic Holdings	6.5p -0.5p
Jones & Shipman	53p -4p
Silentnight Holdings	40p -3p
Stockware Group	41p -3p

CURRENCIES

London:	
£: \$1.1445 (+0.0030)	
£: DM 3.5380 (+0.02)	
£: Sfr 2.9675 (+0.0110)	
£: FF 10.6114 (+0.0567)	
£: Yen 280.30 (+0.05)	
£: Index: 70.8 (+0.3)	
New York:	
£: \$1.1445	
£: DM 3.1755	
£: Index: 146.2 (-0.1)	
ECU 20.627834	
SDR 20.878076	

INTEREST RATES

London:	
Bank Base: 14%	
3-month Interbank 13½-13¾%	
3-month eligible bills	
buying rate 13¼-13½%	
US:	
Prime Rate 10.50	
Federal Funds 8½%	
3-month Treasury Bills 7.94-7.80%	
Long bond yield	
104½-104%	

Midland Bank Interest Rates

Base Rate

Increases by 2% to 14% per annum with effect from 28th January 1985.

Deposit Accounts

Interest paid on 7 day deposit accounts increases by 2½% to 11% p.a. with effect from 28th January 1985.

Monthly Income Deposit Account Service (MIDAS)

Interest paid will be increased from 11¼% to 13½% p.a. with effect from 25th February 1985.

Save and Borrow Accounts

Interest paid on credit balances increases to the above Deposit Account rate and interest charged on overdrawn balances increases by 2% to 23% p.a. with effect from 27th February 1985. APR 25.0%.

Budget Accounts

Interest charged on Budget Accounts increases by 1% to 20% p.a. with effect from 30th January 1985. APR 21.5%.



Midland Bank

Midland Bank plc, 27 Poultry, London EC2P 2BX

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Equities take another battering as profit takers cash in

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Equities suffered another battering yesterday. The weak pound, interest rate worries and the oil price shambles combined to leave the stock market fragile and jittery.

Although there was again a late afternoon rally as bargain hunters took the view that shares were oversold, selling was, on occasions, once more heavy as investors took the opportunity to cash in at least some of the considerable profits they have made in the market's heady run-up.

Matthew Clark and Sons, the Martell cognac brandy to de Kuyper's group, eased 33p to 465p yesterday. Mr Mark Goldridge and Mr Nick Gregory, analysts at de Zoete and Bevan, the stockbroker, describe the shares as "expensive, a unique investment and, unfortunately, a tight market. A share bonus (they add, "seems a distinct near-term possibility").

At its worst point the FT 30 share index was down 25.4 points. It closed at 961.2 points, a 16.7 points decline. The FT-SE share index, which embraces 100 stocks, was at one time 24 points lower. It ended at 1,249.3 points, down 16.5 points.

When yesterday's selling was at its height, there were deep fears in the market that another interest rate increase could be imminent. Some, unconvinced that a 4½ per cent point advance already this year, fretted about the possibility of base rates being forced up another three points.

As worries about an immediate rise subsided, there was a tendency to count the cost of higher rates have already

inflicted on commerce and industry and consumer related shares took a pounding.

Government stocks, however, provided a flicker of cheer on yield considerations. Although mixed for most of the day they closed with a modest flourish - higher by up to 2½.

American buying, which has been such a feature this year as the tumbling pound has encouraged transatlantic interest, was not particularly evident yesterday.

Oil shares kept a relatively firm front yesterday, even though problems in the oil industry are at the root of the interest rates and ultimately equity values. The City is rethinking its rating of the sector.

British Petroleum staged a comeback following news that it is to close part of its German refining operations. The rationalization will cost 800 jobs there and £135 million.

But it will reduce downstream losses, bringing back about £40 million to £50 million of net earnings each year. That consideration, and the fact that this move by BP is the first closure of up-to-date capacity, brought pennies back to the share price. Analysts see the news as a welcome piece of realism by BP.

By the close BP shares were just 4p lower at 501p, having touched 495p earlier in the day.

Elsewhere in the sector, there were pennies taken from British Petroleum, Enterprise, Lasso, Shell, Tricentrol and Ultramar. Falcon Resources went against the trend to 332p, but later settled for a 2p gain to 324p as the company made formal

announcement of the death of its chairman, Lord Hartech.

Premier Consolidated Oilfields eased 1½p to 43p as Carless Capel and Leonard, which earlier this year made an unsuccessful bid for the company, decided not to take up its share of PCO's £16 million rights issue.

Mr Ian Boesky, the American arbitrator, sold 2.5 million PCO shares last week and now has about 10 million. He acquired his shareholding dur-

ing the CCL bid and backed the offer. BSG, the old Bristol Street Motors group, slipped ½p to 23p, but the shares have stayed remarkably firm in the past two days. Market expectations of bid news remain high.

Headen, the building and industrial engineers, went against the trend, rising 4p to 190p on the back of speculative support. Electricals looked a touch brighter than on Monday, although second-line shares were still heading downward.

Racal managed a 2p gain to 204p, a small recovery after the heavy markdowns which followed last week's profits news. GEC displayed more firmness, rising 4p to 300p on market appreciation of the company's cash maintenance. Higher interest rates do no harm to Lord Weinstock's group.

Plessey slipped just 2p to 180p, having touched 178p at one stage, but Thera EMI found the going tough and fell 12p to 422p. Oeconics was among a

handful of smaller companies to resist the downward movement. The shares gained 5p to 130p. But Crystalite Holdings wavered ahead of today's annual meeting. By the close the Crystalite price was 5p down at 218p.

Meggitt Holdings, the machine tool company, being revamped by a new management team, slipped 2p to 75p alongside yesterday's much anticipated profit news. As predicted, the company is comfortably back in profit after four years of losses.

Mr Ken Coates, one of the two high-flying directors who took on Meggitt after their success at Flight Refuelling, said: "We are still very acquisitive, and we are looking at a couple of things right now. Nineteen-eighty-five will be a significant year for Meggitt."

Neepsend, the Sheffield-based engineers, rose 1½p to 11p yesterday, having been one of the biggest losers in the fall of prices on Monday. The company is looking vulnerable again after half year losses of £102,000, caused by difficulties for the Canadian businesses. Yesterday's fall for the share price was put down to possible takeover moves for Neepsend, but it looked more like a rally from weakness.

Paint makers retained some of the gloss in the midst of yesterday's dullness. Leyland Paint & Wallpaper, the object of takeover speculation, was unchanged at 32½p by the end of the day, as an early markdown disappeared. The shares have been trading close to best levels in recent weeks.

Manders (Holdings) was also firm, rising 1p to 172p, and Dufay Bitumastic showed a similar gain to 138p.

Learba, the international trading group, was unchanged at 177p ahead of results due tomorrow. The market expects a near 25 per cent advance to £140 million with a year's

dividend of 11p, putting the shares on an 8.9 per cent yield.

Chloride rose 1p to 30p as Dunlop Olympic, the former Australian off-shoot of troubled Dunlop Holdings, acquired a 14.9 per cent shareholding.

A. G. Stanley, the do-it-yourself group, was unchanged at 43p as the Berger paint group lifted its shareholding to 23.8 per cent. Berger, a subsidiary of the West German Hoechst chemical group, has been steadily increasing its Stanley stake in the past year or so.

Rank Organisation, which yesterday reported a 52 per cent profit advance, has not won many brownie points among the City's analysts. Instead of the normal meeting within hours of the profit announcement, the City's researchers must wait until today to meet Rank's top management. And to pile on the agony, Rank has fixed a breakfast-time get-together.

Stone International, the systems engineering group which came to the stock market in October, was unchanged at 149p as Globe Investment Trust sold its 7.2 per cent shareholding. The shares were placed, at 155p, with institutional shareholders by Panmure Gordon and Co., Stone's stockbrokers.

Microgen Holdings provided glamour in the hi-technology sector, jumping 100p to 910p alongside the sprightly trading news and scrip issue. But Logica, the software design and service group, dropped 10p at one stage as the market encountered a large seller of the shares. By the close, the price recovered to 342p, down just 7p on the day.

Profit-taking hurt takeover hopefuls and other high-flyers in the sector, with Norman Group down 1½p to 80½p and Dec Corporation 7p lower at 187p. Argyl Group dipped 4p to 271p.

TEMPUS

Revitalized Rank still faces City sceptics

It was difficult to find fault with the preliminary announcement from the Rank Organisation yesterday. Profits, earnings, dividends and share price all moved upward. The new management, which has been so successful at tidying up operations and improving efficiency is still, however, faced with the problem of convincing the City that it knows exactly what it wants to do next.

Much as Sir Patrick Meaney, the chairman, and his chief executive Mr Michael Gifford would like to emphasize the strength and potential of existing core businesses, there is still a feeling that, for a company with such diversified interests, the only way forward is through acquisition.

It is a powerful argument but one which should not be pushed too rigorously in Rank's case. Certainly, in the year under review, Rank saw the benefits of cutting out its loss-making interests. However, the group also made substantial gains from the core businesses through attention to efficiency and by focusing marketing efforts much more effectively.

Group pretax profits rose from £69.3 million to £105.3 million. With the marked exception of the holidays and recreation division (and discounting the discontinued businesses) this was achieved by an improved performance across the board.

Although group turnover fell during the year the underlying sales growth in continuing businesses was 15 per cent. This confirms Rank's belief that its existing assets can be made to work more effectively.

In the present year the group should also see some benefit from the steady reduction in borrowings, which must now be down to about £60 million.

Rank still has perhaps one more year in which it can

improve profits rapidly on the back of stronger management, increased efficiency and marketing, reduced borrowings and rationalization. Beyond that it may be forced to look more closely at acquisitions to maintain the pace.

To the current management's credit, it has breathed life back into Rank effectively and swiftly. It would therefore be a little unfair to expect dramatic growth as a matter of course. At the same time, though, Rank cannot afford to limit its horizons in terms of where that growth can be generated.

The shares closed up 6p at 318p. There is still enough potential to make them attractive, particularly on a longer term view.

Globe Investment

Bull markets in Britain have provided Globe Investment Trust with sufficient cash for it to increase its US and Japanese exposure. Overseas Investment, particularly in the US, has underperformed in the third quarter to December, but Globe reckons it is set to rise this year.

Total income for the nine months to December has jumped almost a third to £25 million, giving a pretax increase of almost 20 per cent to £18.6 million. Globe warns against expecting this trend to continue during the current final quarter, but says there should be enough to increase the dividend at least in line with inflation.

The problem facing most investment trusts now is whether they should join the first round of the City revolution, of sit back and wait for the second wave. Globe must be a tempting morsel for anyone building a financial service group. There has been no shortage of offers for its investment management group, Tyndall.

These Globe has declined, but admits that one day someone may get fed up and bid for the whole group.

Globe itself has no intention so far of entering the Stock Exchange maelstrom, but has plans to set up its own dealing operation next year and await the fall-out from the first wave of mergers.

Cowan, de Groot

Hopes that Cowan, de Groot would breach the £1 million profit mark this year, in its slow climb back to health, now look premature. Pretax profits in the vital first six months rose by only 7.3 per cent to £656,000 on marginally lower turnover.

Cowan, de Groot toys and giftware suffered from the weak pound and two dock strikes, which hurt pre-Christmas sales. Toys ordered in Hong Kong at an exchange rate of HK\$12 were imported at a rate of HK\$9.50 and the company has no forward cover on currency.

D. Dekker, which sells merchandise based on television personalities and the like, was again the bright spot, generating 60 per cent of profits.

The reception, at the Harrogate toy fair was excellent and the company has made record sales of toys.

However, the gains will not show through until the first half of 1985-86. This year's profits are unlikely to do much more than inch ahead of last year's £880,000. The shares, down 1p at 39p, sell at 7½ times prospective earnings, a rating which does not anticipate much recovery.

After five years in which the toy industry has been torn apart, and profits have been poor, the market is waiting to see the upturn before it rerates the shares. They yield 7.3 per cent on an unchanged dividend.

Haynes Publishing Group P.L.C.



Interim Results 1984
Turnover £4,554,000
Profit £836,000
Dividend 4.0p
 (Profit up 100%)

Copies of the Interim Statement available from Mr. J. Haynes, A.C.E., Group Company Secretary, Haynes Publishing Group P.L.C., Sparkford, Yeovil, Somerset, BA22 7JL



Allied Irish Banks plc

announces that with effect from close of business on 29th January 1985 its Base Rate was increased from 12% to 14% p.a.

Head Office - Britain:
 64/66 Coleman Street, London EC2R 5AL

Hill Samuel Base Rate

With effect from the close of business on January 29, 1985, Hill Samuel's Base Rate for lending will be increased from 12 per cent to 14 per cent per annum.

Interest payable on the Bank's Demand Deposit Account will be at the rate of 11 per cent per annum.

Hill Samuel & Co. Limited
 100 Wood Street, London EC2P 2AL
 Telephone: 01-628 8011

Traded option highlights

Business on the traded options market continues at a brisk level, keeping up with the strong flow of bargains on the main stock market floor. There were 13,807 contracts traded yesterday, with the market index and British Telecom options still dominating the actions.

For the FT-SE 100 contract there were 2,125 put options and 1,083 calls going through the books. More and more investors and hedging against further falls in equity prices, and others are taking a pessimistic view and putting their cash on it.

In BT contracts, 1,998 calls and 908 puts were traded, alongside yesterday's faltering in the underlying share price.

Other large trades included Imperial Group and Hanson Trust. Dealers handled 707 options in Imps, 749 in Hanson, including 577 calls in the latter.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	14%
Adam & Company	12%
Barclays	14%
BCCI	14%
Citibank Savings	12%
Consolidated Crds	14%
Continental Trust	14%
C. Hoare & Co	14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster	14%
TSB	14%
Williams & Glyn's	14%
Citibank NA	14%

* 7 day deposits on terms of under £10,000, 11½%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 12¼%; £50,000 and over, 13%.

M.I.A. UNITS

Daily Prices as at 30th January 1985

M.I.A. UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LIMITED, 37 OLD QUEEN STREET, LONDON SW1H 9JG

Authorized Unit Trust Prices

Unit Offer Yld %

M.I.A. Units 248.6 263.5d 2.13

M.I.A. International 28.3 41.6 6.84

M.I.A. BR 21.5 22.7 11.51

M.I.A. Income 28.9 20.6 4.90

JUNE 1975-JANUARY 1985

£10,000 TO £131,630

(including a dividend income of 10 p.p.a.)

M.I.A. UNIT TRUST TOP UK GENERAL FUND OVER 3, 5 and 7 YEARS*

0622 679351

* See prospectus for details of the fund's performance.

*Source: Money Management, January 1985.

GALLAHER

Sales and profits at record levels from a wider and stronger spread of interests

Sales and profits before tax were again at record levels in 1984, with sales 10% ahead at £2,839m and profits 7% up at £108m. Excluding the four years of optical back payments in 1983, the overall profit increase was 16%.

Summary of Results for year ended 31st December, 1984 (unaudited)

	1984 £million	1983 £million
Group Sales	2,839.1	2,579.7
Group Trading Profit	122.2	110.4
Interest Charges	(14.0)	(9.3)
Group Profit (before Taxation)	108.2	101.1

Tobacco

Volume sales of Gallaher cigarettes manufactured in the UK were 1% ahead. The benefit from a good domestic market share and a strong rise in exports more than offset a decline in the total UK market. Benson and Hedges Special Filter and Silk Cut continue to dominate their sectors.

Gallaher cigar sales in the UK were also up, with Hamlet further strengthening its position as market leader. Pipe and roll-your-own tobacco markets were depressed, but the Group's market share rose, with Mellow Virginia and Clan both strong.

Overseas tobacco companies were just ahead of 1983. A better performance by Gallaher (Dublin) more than offset lower profits from Niemeyer, affected by price competition in the West German market.

Optical

Results for the full year showed a positive trend after excluding all DHSS back payments. In the UK, volume increased in a changing market. Both the Italian and Spanish companies had good years.

Engineering

Stronger demand both at home and abroad, plus the benefits of reorganisation, are reflected in the profits rise of 57% to £6.6m. Mono and Saunders Valve both achieved notably better results after a long period of reorganisation. The Italian subsidiary FIR increased sales volume, but margins remained under competitive pressure.

Distribution

All the major companies performed well. Overall results would have shown a greater increase but for the cost of reorganising certain activities. The newly acquired drinks and food vending business, Vendepac, had a good year.

Office Products

The Ofrex Group achieved sound progress with profits markedly up on 1983. Particularly good results were achieved by Rexel, Eastlight and Lawtons. The overseas companies were also well ahead, and there were important gains in export markets.

Housewares

The Prestige Group had a good year. Results for the seven months since acquisition were up to expectations and provided a satisfactory net contribution after acquisition financing costs.

Outlook for 1985

Gallaher enters 1985 with a wider and stronger spread of activities in the UK and overseas. It is well positioned to make further progress provided domestic taxation of tobacco products is held at a realistic level.

S. G. CAMERON, CHAIRMAN

Gallaher Limited, 65 Kingsway, London WC2B 6TG. Tel: 01-242 1290. Telex: 25505.

Should stamps, bonds and old bank notes be viewed as an investment or merely as collectors' items? Maggie Drummond reports

How to wrap up those paper profits



Collecting for pleasure is an option, but using your money for tangible investments carries

its own risks if you need to realize capital quickly. In the second part of the series on Precious Investments, the pitfalls of paper assets are examined

Financier Jim Slater once said that what you really needed for financial survival were supplies of baked beans, Krugerrands and a shotgun. But if you wanted to get up and go with your assets you might attract an unwanted amount of attention at Heathrow with that little lot.

The essence of the portable portfolio is surely that it is high in value and light in weight - something you can fold up and put in your pocket should you need to turn your back on a forsaken spouse or the taxman.

In pre-Thatcher days when the UK had tight exchange regulations controlling the movement of cash abroad, putting your money into stamps and carrying it through Customs was a supposedly popular, illegal, pastime for the well bred and worried. Nowadays,

apparently, it's the South Africans who are playing this game.

But portable paper assets clearly have their hazards - and not just the risk of losing money in an inflated market. They are easily lost, stolen or destroyed.

Late-night movie addicts will no doubt have seen a film called *Charade* with Audrey Hepburn playing a deceased villain's widow. She spent at least an hour and thirty minutes trying to find the ill-gotten gains he swore he had left her, pursued all the while by the FBI. Only in the final reel did it emerge that the cash was all in the stamps on the envelope of his farewell letter.

Miss Hepburn lost the money but got the man from the FBI. Since he was Cary Grant, perhaps it wasn't such a bad deal.

Sit on your assets and lick inflation

Reputable stamp dealers steer clear of describing their wares as good investments, emphasizing that stamps should always be bought as collectors' items and not for a quick profit. It is easy to see why. In the 1970s stamp values, particularly those of British stamps, rose massively as speculators moved in. City money went into stamps and smaller investors followed.

There was a tremendous vogue for alternative investment which pushed up the value of the whole range of collectors' items, most notoriously stamps. Why should one hold cash assets such as shares and building

society accounts when inflation was thundering away at 20 per cent a year?

Richard West, editor of *Stamp Magazine* says: "It became very fashionable to believe stamps were a good investment. In the late 1970s this led to the creation of a false market with investors forcing prices up way above collectors' limits. Then the investors decided to sell and prices fell dramatically by the start of the 1980s."

"A lot of people made losses. It caused a great deal of bad feeling in the industry and it is only now that prices

STAMPS



The optimistic investor hopes the present Chinese Government will honour payment of this bond; and (right) the first 20th century £1 note dated 1914

You won't go bust with these bonds

Stamps are by no means the only portable paper asset on offer to the individual. There is a risk though much less well-established and therefore potentially more speculative market in "busted bonds" and old banknotes. Prices of busted bonds and old share certificates reached dizzy heights before slumping some six years ago, but are still interesting collectors' items.

Of interest are bearer securities issued in the early part of the century by the pre-revolutionary governments of China, Russia and other Eastern European countries which became "busted" when new

regimes simply stopped payment on the loans. Many of these old bonds are very beautiful, particularly the Chinese ones. And early share certificates of companies such as American Express (signed by Mr Wells and Mr Fargo) and Standard Oil (signed by J D Rockefeller) are also popular with collectors.

"People really started buying them for decoration," says Keith Hollander, of Old Bond Street dealers Herzog Hollander, which held an exhibition of old bonds and share certificates in the Stock Exchange last spring. "You can still buy a framed bond or share for less

than £500. But prices for certificates with a really famous signature can fetch up to £1,500."

The main attraction is they are decorative, historically interesting and they don't make them like that any more. The main problem with them as portable assets is that it is a very small market and you don't really put large quantities of cash in it. But they are prettier to look at than most stamps."

A complete collection of Chinese bonds, the most sought-after issues, would fetch between £100,000 and £150,000, which is small beer compared with say, an important stamp collection. Keith

Hollander emphasises that these items should be primarily regarded as collectibles.

He has compiled a portfolio of busted bonds that a potential investor could buy for £1,000. This comprises the following: Honan Railway 1905, face value £100; Hukang Railway 1911, face value £100; Canton-Kowloon Railway 1907, face value £100; City of Dresden 1927, face value £100; Republic of Estonia 1927, two bonds, one with a face value of £500, another with a face value of £1,000; Confederate State, Cotton Bond 1863, face value £1,000; Moscow-Saint Petersburg Railway 1869, face value 500 Talers.

But the Chinese bonds, upon which interest ceased being paid in 1938, are pounced on by speculators every now and again in the hope that the new pro-western regime in China may decide to pay off some of these old debts. The really important thing in any collectors' market, according to Keith Hollander, is rarity and condition.

"Some of these bonds are still quoted on the Stock Exchange but the ones you will get there will be pretty battered and have no real value as a collectors' item."

He recommends Penny Blacks, the first British issue, for anyone contemplating buying stamps for the first time. He says you should expect to pay £80 to £100 at auction for a Penny Black in reasonable condition. "I don't think people could lose money on them."

Buying through an auctioneer can be cheaper than buying through a dealer.



This mint block of Penny Blacks would be expected to fetch more than £100,000 at auction.

are beginning to recover to real collectors' value."

With these warnings in mind stamps can still be a good bet for someone who

"Anyone who buys and sells instantly will make a loss"

prizes portability and anonymity above all else. Says Richard West: "People have been using stamps as a method of exchange since they were introduced in this

country in 1840. There is a well developed international market in stamps so you can realize your cash more or less anywhere at any time."

You can put away sizable quantities of money in stamps. There are plenty around with an individual value of up to £500."

But stamps, it should be emphasized, are not the way to a quick profit. Mr Ray Haffner, of Bond Street auctioneers, Harmer, says stamps should be regarded as an investment only in the very long term - at least 10 years. Anyone who tries to

buy and resell instantly is likely to take an instant loss. Dealers' mark-ups can be high, with 30 per cent, probably, towards the lower end of the range.

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No tracing offshore investments

Bearer bonds - unregistered securities where the capital and interest is claimed by whoever has them in his hand - have a long history in Europe where anonymity seems to have been much more important to the individual investor than it is here.

The most widely-held form are Eurobonds - huge sums of capital raised by countries or major corporations in a variety of currencies aimed primarily at big institutional investors.

But individuals who want their cash off shore and untraceable can buy Eurobonds. Any of the big London stock-broking firms will buy them for you, though few would actually recommend them as the best thing for the private investor. In practice you would probably have to deal in a minimum of £5,000 and even then probably pay a little over the odds in terms of price and commission to buy into what is a very big boys' market. But the international bond market is huge, unregulated and anonymous.

One attraction is getting your money into an alternative currency if you do not like your own. Buy Eurodollar bonds for instance and you are putting your trust in the continuing strength of the dollar. Another attraction is that the interest payments are paid gross - without deduction of income tax on presentation of the coupon attached to the bond.

In a truly international, as opposed to just a British domestic, crisis, bond markets would be one of the first to collapse. That's when you could be better off with other kinds of portable assets. Like Mr Slater's baked beans.

Portable paper assets clearly have their hazards - and not just the risk of losing money in an inflated market. They are easily lost, stolen or destroyed - and if you should die suddenly your nearest and dearest may simply not know the value of those fancy-looking things hanging in the bathroom.

TOMORROW
Gold, diamonds and vintage cars - investments you can enjoy

No one who has invested in old banknotes has lost money

"People have been known to iron or steam pound notes to tart them up. It's not a megabuck market but you can buy big denomination Bank of England notes at £1,000 each."

"Of course there are plenty available at much lower prices. No one who has invested in old banknotes with us has lost money," he says.

He recommends pre-1920 Bank of England notes or the black-and-white series issued during the 1930s and 1940s. "You can buy the £500 black-and-white notes for between £250 to £350 depending on condition," he says. "The £100 note has a value of between £250 and £350. Condition is crucial, and investors must watch out for fakes. The Germans churned out a lot of fake black-and-white notes during the First World War and I see nearly as many of those as the real ones."

The pounds look after themselves

The demise of the British pound note is focusing attention on the investment attraction of old banknotes, according to Barnaby Faulstich of Spinks. He says: "I don't think anyone is going to make any money by

Summary of the White Paper on Financial Services

The Regulatory System will include: i. a definition of investments, which will include financial and commodity futures and option contracts, securities covered by the Act and certain other products. The Department of Trade and Industry will continue to be responsible for authorization and prudential supervision of insurance companies; the marketing of life assurance contracts will be treated as far as possible on the same footing as other similar investments. The definition will exclude property which passes under the direct physical control of the investor if purchased.

ii. a definition of investment business which will include, for example, any business which effects transactions in investments with or for others, manages investments or gives advice about them. There will be various exclusions, including companies issuing their own shares, newspapers and investment clubs.

iii. provisions making it an offence to carry on investment business as defined without authorization.

iv. provisions giving the Secretary of State authority which he will be empowered to delegate to a regulatory body which appears to him to satisfy criteria laid down by the legislation - to grant, vary, make subject to conditions, suspend or revoke such authorization and to lay down requirements for the conduct of business by those authorized. These requirements will include the application of a "fit and proper" test to all investment businesses; sole traders, partnerships and corporate entities. Rules for the conduct of business will be based on principles set out in the legislation, including a principle of fair dealing, duties of disclosure and of skill, care and diligence, the protection of clients' assets, suitability of investment recommendations, compensation for investors and disclosure of terms of business to customers.

The main criteria for delegation by the Secretary of State will be that: i. the body's proposed rules and practices are such as to ensure that those authorized by it are and remain "fit and proper" to carry on investment business;

ii. its proposed conduct of business rules will afford adequate protection to investors and are consistent with basic principles set out in the legislation; and

iii. all these rules would not impose restrictions on competition greater than are justified for the adequate protection of investors.

Additional structure: The Government favours a practitioner-based regulatory framework. The arrangements recommended by the Governor of the Bank of England after consultation with leaders of City institutions, and by representatives of the life assurance and unit trust industries, envisaged two practitioner-based regulatory bodies, a "securities and investments board", and a "marketing of investments board" covering in particular life assurance and unit trusts. However, the legislation will in no way prevent delegation to a single practitioner-based regulatory body.

There will be provision for the boards to recognize self-regulatory organizations such as The Stock Exchange, the National Association of Security Dealers and Investment Managers, the Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers and the Insurance Brokers Registration Council as providing the authorization required for an investment business. Accountability to Government and Parliament: i. The chairman and members of the board or boards will be appointed by the Secretary of State or with his agreement.

ii. Board members will include users and other lay members as well as practitioners.

iii. The Secretary of State will be entitled to withdraw regulatory authority if he considers that at any time a board ceases to conform to the criteria set out in the legislation.

iv. A board's rules and practices will be subject to initial and continuing scrutiny for anti-competitive elements; after obtaining the advice of the Director General of Fair Trading, the Secretary of State will have power to require the amendment or withdrawal of rules which are judged to be detrimental to competition and not justified in the interests of investor protection.

v. The Secretary of State will have power to require the amendment or withdrawal of the rules of the boards if they are contrary to the international obligations of the United Kingdom.

vi. The boards will report annually to the Secretary of State who will lay their reports before Parliament.

vii. There will be provision for a new and independent tribunal, whose members will be appointed by the Secretary of State, to be the final determinant of any dispute about authorization decisions or about penalties for breach of the rules.

Unit trusts: The present controls will be relaxed to allow a greater variety of unit trusts to be made available to the general public and more speculative arrangements to be offered (and promoted) to authorized business; and by them to those investors who have appropriate financial resources and experience.

Investment advice and the marketing of investments: Investment advisers, including those who advise on life assurance or unit trusts, will be subject to the conduct of business principles. They will be under a duty to disclose "relevant information".

It is already a criminal offence to make misleading, false, deceptive or reckless statements or forecasts about investments. The new legislation will extend this provision to cover acts or omissions of conduct likely to defraud or deceive investors or potential investors.

Pensioners: There will be a requirement to disclose comprehensive information about the way pension scheme assets are invested. Any investment manager or adviser involved in the administration of pension schemes as a business (that is other than simply as an employee) will require authorization. Personal pensions should be subject at least to the same safeguards as other forms of investment.

Advertisements and circulars: Only authorized investment businesses will have a statutory right to issue advertisements or circulars likely to lead to the sale or purchase of investments. "Advertisements and circulars" will be defined to include all media.

Public issues and takeovers: The legislation will provide that all public offers of securities, primary or secondary, including offers made on takeover bids, will be subject to the same statutory regime. All offers to the public will have to comply with requirements regarding terms, contents, unless specifically exempted.

If the securities market felt that it would be helpful, the Government would be willing to consider providing statutory backing for the City Panel on Takeovers and Mergers.

Inside dealing: The legislation will extend the inside dealing provisions of the Companies Act 1984 to cover all securities, including options and futures contracts based on them, and also to make enforcement more effective.

Enforcement: The regulatory board (or boards) and its recognized self-regulatory organizations will be responsible for enforcing their respective rules. The Department of Trade and Industry and the prosecution authorities will be responsible for enforcing the criminal law. There will be provision for civil law remedies for loss due to breach of the criminal law or rules of business conduct. Finally, to facilitate the enforcement of these civil law rights,

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NOTICE TO INVESTORS AND DEPOSITORS

The rate of interest paid on Investment Shares will be increased to 7.50% p.a. (10.71% p.a. gross equivalent at the basic rate tax of 30%) with effect from 1st February 1985. The rates of interest on all other classes of shares and deposits except S.A.Y.E. will be increased by 0.75% p.a. from the same date.

NOTICE TO BORROWERS

The rates of interest on all mortgages (in appropriate cases the basic rates) will be increased by 1.00% p.a. from 1st February 1985.

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Bank of Scotland Base Rate

Bank of Scotland announces that, with effect from 28th January, 1985 its Base Rate will be increased from 12.00% per annum to 14.00% per annum

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Williams & Glyn's Bank announce that the monthly rate of interest charged to its Access cardholders will be increased from 1.75% to 2.25% per month (equivalent to an annual percentage rate of 30.6%) with effect from 6th February, 1985.

From that date the new rate will be applied to all interest bearing balances, cash advances and to purchases attracting interest for the first time. The first sentence of Condition 6 of the Williams & Glyn's Bank Access Conditions of Use is amended accordingly.

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Registered Office: 20 Birch Lane, London EC3P 3DP.
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Bank of Ireland

announces that with effect from close of business on 29th January 1985 its Base Rate for lending is increased from 12% to 14% per annum

Bank of Ireland

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FOOTBALL: CHELSEA FIND FEW CHEERS IN THEIR CUPS

Wednesday wait for the wounded

The bustling determination that earned Sheffield Wednesday a draw in Monday's Milk Cup quarter-final at Chelsea could cost them dear for today's replay. Five players are injured. "It is impossible to say at the moment just what the team will be," Howard Wilkinson, the manager, said. "It is the most extensive injury list we have had."

Marwood limped out of Monday's game with a bruised calf and he is joined on the treatment table by Hodge, Blair (sprained ankle), Worthington (sore ankle) and Shelton (sprained shoulder). In comparison, Chelsea may consider they have been let off lightly. Pates, who hurt a knee, should be fit, while Jasper stands by in case Jones's thigh injury keeps him out of the replay.

By the time Chelsea face Millwall in the FA Cup fourth round tie next Monday, they will have four cup games in nine days. "Another replay is really the last thing we needed," Ian McNeill, Chelsea's assistant manager, said.

Dixon, with Bobby Robson looking on, failed from the penalty spot for the third time this season.

"We are going to have to go back to the drawing board on penalties. They have been a big bugbear to us this season, because Colin Lee and Pat Nevin have also missed them. We might leave it to the captain to nominate a penalty taker next time we get one. Sometimes a player can be having a really good game and be confident about taking on the responsibility."

"Mind you, there was no doubt about Kerry taking the penalties before this game. He was on such a high after scoring four goals at Wigan on Saturday."

Sheffield Wednesday had taken a seventeenth-minute lead through Madden, before Stoddie equalised in the 28th minute. Chelsea twice hit a post before Hodge saved Dixon's 48th minute penalty. They had plenty of other chances to make the game safe, although their commitment to attack almost



Misfire: Kerry Dixon (left) may have taken his last penalty for Chelsea; Simon Stainrod (right) may have played his last game for QPR.

allowed Wednesday to steal victory in the closing minutes. Simon Stainrod's future at Queens' Park Rangers must be in doubt after his second sending off this season. The 25-year-old forward was dismissed together with Russell Osman in the 21st minute of Monday night's 2-1 Milk Cup quarter-final defeat by Ipswich at Loftus Road.

Stainrod was a member of the England party which toured South America last summer but he has been out of favour with Frank Sibley, the acting manager since Rangers' Boxing Day game against Chelsea. He was recalled for the two games with Ipswich because Rangers' recent signings, Byrne and Robinson, were ineligible. Now he faces his second lengthy suspension of the season and little prospect of a return to the first team.

Only a month ago Rangers turned down a £250,000 offer for Stainrod from Sheffield Wednesday. Within six minutes of the double dismissal, Ipswich had scored twice, through D'Avray and Zondervan. Bannister pulled one back six minutes before half time, but Rangers could make no further progress after the interval with Butcher in commanding form. Ipswich will now play Norwich in the two-legged semi-final.

Mark Foster, the substitute, moved into the attack while Todd took Smith's place at the heart of the defence. Telford took the lead in the 23rd minute. The goal followed a right-wing corner taken by Alcock. Williams's back to the goal, Foster and Alcock, kicked off the line from McKenna before Williams, at the second attempt, drove the ball home to give Telford a deserved lead.

The game was a display of great confidence and skill as Ipswich were looking decidedly ragged. Cook, however, briefly raised their hopes with a powerful run down the left wing, finishing with a drive which struck the outside of the post. But Telford was quickly back on the attack, with their lively centre-forward, McKenna, cleverly taking a long ball from Alcock in his stride and assisting Johnson's challenge before shooting narrowly wide as Barber came out.

After 35 minutes Telford also made a substitution, Dean Edwards replacing the limping Williams. Towards the end of the game, Ipswich began to exert pressure on the Telford defence and Charlton made a superb save on the line from Foster's glancing header. In the 61st minute Foster scored the equaliser from close range. Quigley has been denied by Charlton.

McNeill, who was in the 100th Scottish Cup competition. Aberdeen will try to rewrite the Scottish Cup record books tonight when they face Alloa Athletic in a third round tie at Pittodrie. The premier division champions aim to become the first club to lift the trophy four years in a row - and their manager, Alex Ferguson, would like nothing better than to achieve the feat in the 100th Scottish Cup competition.

Aberdeen have won the cup for the last three seasons in a record-breaking run of 18 ties without defeat, stretching back to February 1981. As the holders prepare to open their defence of the trophy against the second division leaders, Ferguson says: "There is no greater incentive than the prospect of making history. The Scottish Cup is very special to myself, the players and the supporters. It may seem that there is pressure on us to win in four years running, but I feel the pressure is on the other clubs to take the Cup from us."

The defender, McKimmie, is suspended and his place is taken by Mitchell. The heartening news for Scotland's manager, John Stein, is that McKimmie will be back on the bench after a two-month absence. The winger, Paterson, returns for Alloa.

Norwich were well worth their victory. They face Hartlepool in the fourth round at Upton Park on Monday, which means that the first leg of the Milk Cup semi-final against Ipswich Town will be put back seven days to Tuesday, February 13.

York City will not increase their price for the FA Cup fifth round tie against Liverpool at Bootham Crescent on February 16.

Telford put up brave fight to keep hopes alive

By John Dougray

Darlington 1 Telford United 1

Telford United, the only non-League side left in the FA Cup, survived a late onslaught by Darlington, of the fourth division, last night to take the fourth round tie to a replay. The prize for the eventual winners is a trip to the holders, Everton.

Three days of mild weather had melted the snow that had caused the postponement of the tie on Saturday. The pitch was extremely heavy as Darlington kicked off before another large crowd at Feethams.

There was an interesting contrast in styles. Darlington favouring the long ball and the big bustling forwards, Telford playing a fast, short passing game. There was an early score for Darlington when a misunderstanding between Barber and the centre half Smith allowed McKenna a chance, but the Telford defenders managed to scramble the ball away.

It was easy to see why Telford had drawn three League sides, Lincoln City, Preston North End and Bradford City, in previous rounds. After 17 minutes Darlington suffered a setback when Smith felt awkward in the opposition penalty area and was carried off with a shoulder injury.

Mark Foster, the substitute, moved into the attack while Todd took Smith's place at the heart of the defence. Telford took the lead in the 23rd minute.

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Dickenson puts the record straight over drug abuse

By Pat Butcher

Paul Dickenson, the chairman of the International Athletics Club, claims that his alleged "six out of ten athletes on drugs" remark was a misrepresentation. But the former United Kingdom record holder in the hammer throw admits that there is a problem of drug abuse in British athletics, and that the authorities are not doing enough about it.

Dickenson said yesterday that the 60 per cent figure referred to the range of events in athletics, in which he felt that some athletes were taking drugs, meaning that it was not restricted to heavy events. "I've thrown events," he said, "and we don't want to corrupt the game, but we're writing to the Sports Council asking them to stop the rate of drug research and detection."

He added: "We think that drug testing currently is totally inadequate, and they should be giving more information to youngsters. So at the same time, they should be funding alternative methods of improving performance. We don't think the Sports Council have spoken to the right people. What we need are coaches who know a lot about nutrition."

As Dickenson admits, this brings us on to the fine line between sports medicine which is beneficial and benevolent, and drug abuse, which may improve performance but can often be detrimental to health, not to mention morally indefensible.

The British Amateur Athletic Board, working party on drug abuse have their final meeting this afternoon, which they expect will produce a plan, soon to be implemented, for random drug testing. Dickenson's IAC committee hope to get a copy of their Sports Council letter to the working party before they sit.

Lazare wins

Hong Kong (Reuters) - Alain Lazare, of France, sprinted past Zhu Shuchun, of China, in the final five yards of the eighth Hong Kong international marathon today to win a second consecutive victory in the Los Angeles Olympic Games, was suffering from a bad back but still recorded a time of 2hr 18min 34sec.

SNOOKER

When White rose above Thorne

By Sydney Franks

The snooker reporter can rarely miss a deadline when Jimmy White is in action. The talented left-hander from Wimbledon, calmly wrapped up his first-round match against Thorne in the second round of the Hedges Masters tournament before a boisterous crowd at Wembley yesterday with a convincing 5-2 victory in defence of his title.

White began by going in-off. That calamity did not worry him, for he made a break of 75, following up with 30 to win the first frame easily. A break of 40 in the second put him in the driving seat. Thorne, however, recovered his composure to force the next frame.

Thorne lost his chance of levelling at 5-2 by playing an attacking shot on the black which he just missed, leaving it on for 3-1. White stretched his lead to 4-1 with a break of 49 but Thorne hit back to win a highly fought sixth frame on the pink. His last semblance of resistance ended when he missed a crucial ball in the seventh frame.

Commenting on the shouting, Thorne said: "Snooker has not yet become like darts, but if it comes to that, there will be many tournaments in London." Earlier in the day Ray Reardon almost shook hands a little too soon with David Taylor when he defeated 5-1 to set up a quarter-final with Cliff Thorburn from Canada. Reardon thought when he potted the pink in the sixth frame that he had won it but realized that he also needed the black. He played a safety shot, after which Taylor deliberately sent the cue ball into a pocket to end the match.

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TENNIS

Lloyd ends run of early exits in style

Memphis (Reuters) - John Lloyd, of Britain, overcame a recent run of first-round failures to score a victory in straight sets over Tom Gulliksson, of the United States, in the U.S. indoor championships yesterday.

Lloyd, who won 6-3, 6-3, said: "I'd lost in first-round matches for the past four weeks so I haven't had a lot of match practice. I was concerned that I would be a bit rusty, but I thought I was very sharp."

Mei Purcell, of the United States, was fined \$1,000 after failing to appear for a second-round match with her compatriot, Marty Davis. Salomo Glickstein, of Israel, a loser in an earlier round, was entered in the draw to play Davis, only to lose 6-3, 6-3.

Leif Sheres, of the United States, survived two match points to win his first-round match against Pavel Slovic, of Czechoslovakia, 4-6, 7-6, 7-6.

Among those also advancing to the second round were Greg Holmes, Mark Dickson, Tim Wilkison, Jay Lapidus and Tim Gulliksson, all of the United States, plus Jan Gunnarsson of Sweden and Marcus Osta of Yugoslavia.

Young lions get rich incentive

By Lewine Mair

Richard Whicshell and Jason Goodall are among the beneficiaries of £40,000 worth of sponsorship for 1983. The two young players, who have helped Alan Court, are contributing £30,000 and the LTA £10,000.

Paul Hinchings, the British team manager, said yesterday that he will be looking for one or possibly two more players to join what is known as the Laing/LTA scheme. The scheme is designed to help the difficult transitional stage between the junior and senior game.

Hinchings believes there are nine boys on the short list for the scheme. The list is being compiled by the Laing/LTA scheme. The intention at the moment is to go on results achieved over the second of its five weeks - one suspects that the sponsors might feel tempted to let all nine be involved in a small way.

Nigel Sears and the former Davis Cup player, Richard Whicshell, have been the best of the boys that they will share the business of travelling with the youngsters both at home and overseas.

Hinchings is currently working out an incentive scheme for the boys. Whicshell, the squad, and he stressed the importance of the new satellite circuit in helping to bring on players in this age group.

One such player for whom he has a particular admiration is Peter Wiggan, aged 21, from the West Country, who spent his nights at Haverhill airport two years ago in order to afford to play in a qualifying event in London.

Today's quarter-final between Jeremy Bates and Richard Whicshell is among the more inviting matches of the LTA event. It is a battle between two of the best British players, who are ranked 10th and 11th in the world.

Richard Lewis, the erstwhile Davis Cup player, has been keeping his fingers crossed that Whicshell's second-round match would run smoothly on a day when he had been announced that Lewis would be joining forces with Nigel Sears to work with the Kent youngsters in the new Laing's LTA squad.

In the event, Lewis's worst fears were realized. Whicshell's opponent, Robin Brydson, 6-4, 6-4, to end a run of three successive losses at the hands of the former King's Cup player.

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Wimbledon's plan is to petrify Forest

Dave Bassett, the Wimbledon manager, has not dreamt up any subtle plans to deal with Nottingham Forest in tonight's FA Cup fourth round replay at Plough Lane. For Bassett knows that there is only one way to win: by being as hard as they can. "We must hit them," he said. "We have to have a hard game and then hope we will get some goals." However Saturday's 2-1 draw at Forest was Wimbledon's first goalless game since April 1983.

"We have gone two games without scoring - and that is a long time for us," Bassett said. "We finished training yesterday with a shooting session."

Bassett is hoping his "Indian sign" over Brian Clough - he has not lost in five meetings - will continue. "It is just one of those things that get thrown up every now and again. If there is a sign, then I am keen to go on."

Wimbledon won 2-1 on aggregate against Forest in last season's Milk Cup, but only their goalkeeper saved them from further humiliation. Clough admitted they got off lightly. "Forest don't like the way we play. People say it's the same style as Watford - Graham Taylor will

probably be insulted by that - but the long-ball game has been successful for us for two and a half years."

Clough said: "Quite frankly, I feel that taking Wimbledon away from home is going to be just as hard as when we played Newcastle at St James' Park in the previous round."

"Wimbledon will get plenty of support from their fans, and the fact that we played them in the Milk Cup last season is not going to be much of an advantage to us."

Peter Davison, the Forest forward, is confident of revenge, however. He said: "I can't remember a game where we have created so many chances and failed to put any away as happened on Saturday. We have been written off before, as against Newcastle, and come through, so I'm sure we can win this tie."

Luis Sanchez gave Wimbledon an injury scare yesterday, hurting his right knee in training. But he is determined not to miss his club's big night, and Bassett hoped to name an unchanged side.

Clough is happy to include Gary Birtles, who showed no ill-effects after Saturday's game, his first after a nine-month lay-off with back trouble.

Special incentive for Aberdeen

Aberdeen will try to rewrite the Scottish Cup record books tonight when they face Alloa Athletic in a third round tie at Pittodrie. The premier division champions aim to become the first club to lift the trophy four years in a row - and their manager, Alex Ferguson, would like nothing better than to achieve the feat in the 100th Scottish Cup competition.

Aberdeen have won the cup for the last three seasons in a record-breaking run of 18 ties without defeat, stretching back to February 1981. As the holders prepare to open their defence of the trophy against the second division leaders, Ferguson says: "There is no greater incentive than the prospect of making history. The Scottish Cup is very special to myself, the players and the supporters. It may seem that there is pressure on us to win in four years running, but I feel the pressure is on the other clubs to take the Cup from us."

The defender, McKimmie, is suspended and his place is taken by Mitchell. The heartening news for Scotland's manager, John Stein, is that McKimmie will be back on the bench after a two-month absence. The winger, Paterson, returns for Alloa.

Norwich were well worth their victory. They face Hartlepool in the fourth round at Upton Park on Monday, which means that the first leg of the Milk Cup semi-final against Ipswich Town will be put back seven days to Tuesday, February 13.

York City will not increase their price for the FA Cup fifth round tie against Liverpool at Bootham Crescent on February 16.



McLish: on way back

Celtic, without a competitive fixture since January 1, emerge from their enforced hibernation with a tough tie away to Hamilton Academicals. Pierce O'Leary - brother of Arsenal's David - will make his debut at Douglas Park in place of the suspended Aileen.

Heart of Midlothian have no injury problems for their third round match with Inverness Caledonia.

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MOTOR RACING

Jones lured out of retirement to be new team's driving force

By John Blunsden

A new FORCE (the capital letters are intentional) in Formula One racing was revealed yesterday with the announcement that Alan Jones, the former world champion, will return to the circuits to lead a new grand prix team, backed by Beatrice, an international marketing company with interests in food and consumer products. The team, owned by the American racing entrepreneur, Carl Haas, will be operated by Formula One Race Car Engineering (hence the initials), a new company formed by Teddy Mayer, Tyler Alexander (both formerly with McLaren) and Eric Broadley, of Lola Cars. FORCE will also be responsible for car design and development.

The team have entered into a five-year contract with Beatrice and will run one car in the last four of five races this season prior to entering a two-year term from 1986 onwards. Jones, the 1980 world champion, has been coaxed out of retirement at home in Australia to drive the Beatrice Lola this season, beginning, it is hoped with the Italian Grand Prix in September.

It is possible that he will be joined by Mario Andretti, the 1978 world champion, in one or two races if Andretti's commitments in the United States enable a second car to be run this year.

"Let's say I'm keeping my options open," said Andretti, who last year won the PRC Indy Cars world series championship with a Lola T800, owned jointly

by Carl Haas and Paul Newman, the actor. This season he will again lead the Lola team in the United States, and his son Michael is already on the shortlist of possible drivers for the second Formula One Beatrice Lola for 1986.

Although American-owned, the new team has strong British connections and will use the Hart turbo-charged engine, which was chosen in preference to other available turbos from overseas. New premises are being acquired close to Heathrow Airport and the design team will be headed by John Baldwin (previously with Spirit), who has drawn the chassis, and Neil Oatley (formerly with Williams), who will be responsible for transmission design and development in collaboration with Hewland Engineering. The overall engineering direction and co-ordination will be handled by Eric Broadley. Although no tyres have yet been named for the Beatrice Lola, a contract has already been signed with a tyre supplier.

Rarely, if ever, has a new team been formed which embraces such a wealth of Grand Prix racing experience and talent. With Beatrice supplying sponsorship on a scale which - though undisclosed - will enable the team to operate with the best possible equipment and facilities, this really does appear to be the start of a new force within the Formula One scene and one which should do the image of the world championship series a power of good.

RUGBY UNION

Scottish trio need to prove fitness

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Three of Scotland's most experienced players must prove their fitness in training at Murrayfield tomorrow if they are to play against Ireland when the five nations' championship opens, a fortnight later, on Saturday. Laidlaw, the captain and scrum half, and the two front-row men, Milne and Deans, are all carrying minor knocks acquired during recent training. Milne, the Harlequins tight-head prop, is the most doubtful: "I banged my right knee on the hard ground so it is bruised, but I think there is also a slight strain to the ligaments," he said. "Thursday's training will decide. There is a great deal of difference between a gentle run and a full-blown squad session".

Rowan, the Bournemouth prop, who was added to the replacement list, has a "Mackenzie" withdrawal from the Scotland side last week, would be the obvious beneficiary should Milne have to pull out.

England's players worked out on



Milne: most doubtful

Guy's finish with flourish

By Gordon Allan

Guy's Hospital.....25
St Thomas's Hospital.....12

Guy's reached the semi-final round of the Hospitals' Cup when they beat St Thomas's in a close, a try and a penalty goal to a goal and two penalties at Honor Oak Park yesterday. It was one of the best games for a long time in this competition. The margin was unfair to St Thomas's, Guy's possession was of better quality, and that was the chief reason they were able to win.

The first 20 minutes led us to think this would be just another messy cup tie. Hopley kicked a penalty for St Thomas's. Then the hunk began. Dockers, who were Nigel Mee's understudy at Yorkshire Schools level, got a try for Guy's, darning over from a maul, and Hackett converted. Hopley kicked another penalty to make it all square.

In the second half scores tumbled out thick and fast. Jones pursued an up-and-under for Poole for a try, which Hackett converted. Martin brought St Thomas's back with a try, converted by Hopley, after a sweeping movement begun by Hopley on half-way.

IN BRIEF

Soviet Union barred

The Soviet Union, the world champion, has been barred from the World Cup water polo competition from May 12-19 because of the Olympic boycott. Only the top eight Olympic teams are eligible, which means that Hungary and Cuba, the silver and bronze winners in the last world championship, will also be absent. The eight competing nations are Yugoslavia, the United States, West Germany, Spain, Australia, the Netherlands, Italy and Greece.

CROSS-COUNTRY: John Tracey, Richard O'Flynn and Monica Joyce have been pre-selected for Eire's team to compete in the world championships in Lisbon in March.

The rest of the men's women's and junior men's teams will be chosen after the national inter-club championships on February 24.

David Miller on Britain's uphill work in the downhill



Martin Bell hopes to be ringing on the door of the world by the next Olympics

Summoned by Alpine bells

For only a fraction of what the BBC are obliged to pay the Football League for Match of the Day, they are able to secure all the excitement of young Graham Bell breaking a world record, and the legendary Franz Klammer losing a ski, at the first of the downhill races on the Hahnenkamm course in Kitzbühel.

Do not let us be coy about the truth. The viewing figures for Ski Sunday of more than 4 million - which is twice Saturday's Grandstand and better than the bottom figure for Match of the Day, which fluctuates from under 4 million to just over 8 million - are related to the spectacular pleasure extracted from watching motor racing or boxing; somebody may get hurt, spectacularly.

In fact, the glamour of the television screen eliminates much of the frightening element of downhill skiing - the surging acceleration from 30 mph to 70 mph out of the Hahnenkamm's first turn into the fierce compression at the bottom of the ice-creased Mauterbach, all encompassed by the competitor if he is lucky, within a few seconds.

What seems quite improper is that this BBC event, which is exciting television - average audiences at the Sarajevo Winter Olympics, excluding Torvald and Dena, were over 7 million - is a television event, not a winter sport. The British team have three skiers, including Torvald, and Dena, were over 7 million - is a television event, not a winter sport. The British team have three skiers, including Torvald, and Dena, were over 7 million - is a television event, not a winter sport.

Graham Bell is, in fact, intending to do a Steve Overt, to compete against medical advice in this Sunday's championship downhill, in spite of a collar-bone still looking as knobby through his skin as a giraffe's knee-cap. He had to return home from Kitzbühel two and a half weeks ago for attention and was back last weekend, training at Garmisch, where Martin, the sort of inauspicious run he wants to forget as quickly as possible.

Denying that he is taking undue

World top dozen target for 1988

In last year's Olympics, Martin and Graham, then aged 19 and 18, finished eighteenth and thirty-second, their position flattered by the fact that, as in these championships, only four competitors per country are allowed to compete.

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Luxembourg rule out Girardelli

Luxembourg (Reuters) - Luxembourg will not send its citizenship rules to give Marc Girardelli, the Austrian-born skier, a passport in time to compete next week in the world championships in Bormio, Italy.

Girardelli, who leads the men's World Cup standings, had hoped to become eligible for Bormio by taking out Luxembourg citizenship. But a government spokesman said yesterday that Girardelli's application for a passport was still being processed.

Officials said the decision on whether Girardelli could compete in Bormio would be made by the International Ski Federation, whose rules have allowed him to race for Luxembourg since the age of 13 but bar him from taking part in Olympic Games and world championships.

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Come East: The Garden House at Cottred on offer at £350,000

A Japanese country garden

A splendid garden is a great help in selling a house, but very few properties are sold for their garden alone. One of the few is the Garden House at Cottred, Hertfordshire, which has an authentic Japanese garden. In addition to traditional English and Italian gardens set amid wooded grounds of nearly 12 acres.

The exotic surroundings enclose a Canadian ranch-style house with three reception rooms and two bedrooms, built by Mr. Ironside. He bought the property in 1964 and enlarged and modernized the two storey guest house in the grounds.

The Japanese garden, over five acres, was created in the early part of the 20th century on the instructions of the glass and china merchant Herbert Goode, and is now at full maturity. It contains lanterns, ornaments, shrines and idols, trees and shrubs, most of which made the journey from Japan in the hulls of tea clippers.

The garden, bordered by a bamboo hedge, was arranged under the direction of expert Japanese land-

It's difficult to believe this is Hertfordshire

It is completed by rock gardens and waterfalls, caves and stands for works of art, and the whole area is crossed by a series of paths and bridges, making it difficult to believe that the visitor is near a Hertfordshire village and not in a peaceful corner of Japan.

There is also a formal European garden with lawn, rose beds and a fine blue cedar tree, and the grounds are surrounded by mature trees which preserve the house's seclusion. Savills and Watsons of Royston, Herts, are asking for offers of around £350,000.

Cobbled courtyard, and the Tower for a neighbour

If you want a house near the City of London and are prepared to venture a little way east, then Hawkmoor Mews, Cable Street, London EC1 - close to the Tower of London - is in the right place. A new development of 10 houses has been built there, with a gated entrance, through an 18th century terrace leading to a cobbled courtyard, and looking towards the fine Hawkmoor tower of St George's-in-the-East. Two gatehouses are already under offer, but two other types are available through Frank Harris and Company, of 81, Marchmont Street, London WC1 - one bedroomed, two storey houses at £69,500, and three storey houses with two bedrooms at £92,500 and £97,500.

The Chelsea house occupied by the spy Greville Wynne during his liaison with British Intelligence, featured recently in the BBC television series *Wynne and Peckworthy* is for sale. Humberts are asking £550,000 for 19, Upper Cheyne Row, which has five bedrooms, a roof terrace and a studio cottage.

A carefully modernized 17th century cottage at Long Compton, Shipston on Stour, Warwickshire, is for sale through Knight Frank and Rutley's Chipping Norton office, which is seeking offers around £78,000. Archway Cottage, modernized 12 years ago, retains many of

the original features, including exposed beams. It has a sitting room, dining room, music room/study and four bedrooms. The gardens, with lawn and fruit trees, are enclosed by flower borders, are enclosed by dry stone walls. From the road, the driveway passes under the property through the archway to a fine wrought iron gate.

An early Georgian merchant's house in Flax Walk, Hampstead, is for sale at £275,000 through Ascombe and Ringland's Hampstead office. It was once the home of Lord Tennyson, the poet Laureate, who lived there during the 1850s and 1860s.

Prescott House, a fine 16th century Cotswold House with outstanding views to the Malvern Hills situated near Winchcombe (about eight miles from Cheltenham), is for sale through Hampton and Sons' Cheltenham office by public tender, closing on March 28. The agents are being cautious about the expected price, saying only that they expect a sale price "in six figures". The house, former home of the painter Francis Bacon, is approached by a three-car garage drive which is the famous Prescott Hill climb owned by the Bagatti Owners Club. The 11-bedroom house needs considerable improvement.

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£250,000 sought in vaccine damage test case

The parents of a brain-damaged boy aged nine claimed £250,000 damages in the Court of Session in Edinburgh yesterday on the grounds that his condition was caused by a whooping cough vaccination when he was a baby.

The action is regarded as a test case, for other claims for vaccine-damaged children are pending. The parents have already been paid £10,000 under the Vaccine Damage Payments Act, 1979.

Mr John Bonithorne and his wife, Mrs. Dorothy Bonithorne, who live in Ennabry, Sutherland, have brought the case jointly against Fife Health Board, their general practitioner, Dr C. Barton, and Mrs H. Albiston, a health visitor attached to Dr Barton's group practice but employed by the Health Board.

The Bonithornes' son Richard, born in October 1975, had the first of a series of vaccinations for whooping cough, diphtheria and tetanus on February 25, 1976, according to written pleadings. He had a second whooping cough vaccination three months later.

His mother claimed she was not informed and did not know that the vaccination carried a risk of serious and permanent side effects, and she was not told there was an alternative

vaccine omitting whooping cough.

Before the vaccination, she said, Richard was a normal, healthy baby. Shortly afterwards he developed an abnormal movement of his left arm and was sick repeatedly. Eight days after the second vaccination he had a convulsion and later suffered as many as 30 a day.

It was later found he had suffered severe and irreversible brain damage.

The health board and the health visitor, who deny liability, said in written pleadings, that the family's elder son had the vaccination and the mother was familiar with the procedures. It was believed the health visitor mentioned to the mother that vaccinations sometimes produce side effects.

Dr Barton also denies liability. Had the mother told him of any symptoms he would not have given the second vaccination, he said.

When evidence began before Lord Jauncey yesterday Mrs Bonithorne told the court that Richard was a healthy baby until he had his first vaccination.

The hearing continues and the evidence is expected to last for several weeks. Judgment will be reserved.

Portugal crisis talks after bomb wave

From Martha de la Cal, Lisbon

Senhor Mario Soares, Portuguese Prime Minister, called a "crisis cabinet" meeting yesterday after a wave of terrorist bomb attacks in which one man died.

On Monday evening Senhor Sidonio Cabanellas, national motor racing champion, was killed by a parcel bomb at his father's bus company in the northern town of Vila Real. His secretary was severely injured.

At dawn yesterday an explosion damaged the house of Senhor Jose Romano Colaco, a landowner, at Castro Verde in the south.

The attacks were claimed by the FP-25 left-wing terrorist

group believed responsible for firing three grenades at Nato ships in Lisbon on Monday.

● **ROME:** Senator Giovanni Spadolini, the Italian Defence Minister, has criticised France for being too lax in granting political asylum to extremists, thereby allowing the formation on French soil of a "terrorist multinational" (John Earle writes).

● **BONN:** Three imprisoned terrorists in West Germany have given up a hunger strike after eight weeks, the Ministry of the Interior said yesterday, but 26 other prisoners are still refusing to eat (Michael Binyon writes).

Dons exercise a degree of choice



Waiting to vote: The Rev Graham Midgley Fellow of St Edmund Hall (left) sharing umbrellas outside the Sheldonian. (Photographer: John Voos)

Oxford's dons vote to snub Prime Minister

Continued from page 1

All Souls, who proposed the award of an honorary Doctor of Civil Law degree to Mrs Thatcher on the grounds of tradition. Professor Pulzer said there was a time to respect tradition and a time to subvert it.

"To say no to the special resolution is to send a signal to the government over which our Prime Minister presides: a signal that enough is enough and that we urge an immediate drastic and radical reassessment of the policies which she has pursued."

"To say no is to draw attention to the chaos which now exists between Government and the academic community in this country. It is in nobody's interest to deny or to minimize its existence."

Sir Patrick Neill, the mover of the motion that Mrs Thatcher receive the award, was supported by Lord Quinon, president of Trinity College, and Miss Daphne Park, principal of Somerville, where Mrs Thatcher was an undergraduate and of which she is an honorary fellow.

One of Mrs Thatcher's most spirited supporters was Dr Nick Shrimpton, a lecturer in English, who declared: "The lady is not for snubbing." He said to reject her was a characteristic piece of Oxford arrogance.

● **A Downing Street spokesman** said last night that Mrs Thatcher had thought it "very gracious" when the university's hebdomadal council originally proposed she should be given an honorary degree. "However it is entirely in the hands of the university. If they don't wish to confer an honour, she is the last person to wish to receive it."

Mr Giles Radice, Labour's chief education spokesman, said he was "delighted" because the Government had done so much damage to universities. "Mrs Thatcher has not her just reward. It would be ridiculous to give her an honorary degree," he said.

● **The Association of University Teachers**, which represents 32,000 members, welcomed the vote. Leading article, page 13

Israelis pull out Militias try to avert Lebanon civil war

From Robert Fisk, Eilat, Lebanon

Under the distant gaze of the last soldiers of Israel's departing Army, Christian and Muslim Lebanese militiamen along their front line north of the Awali river are gathering daily at a half-finished villa above the Mediterranean in an effort to prevent their vulnerable coastal territory being torn apart in civil war when the Israelis finish their withdrawal.

Already, the Phalangists along the coast road have ordered their men to wear civilian clothes and have even permitted Shiite Muslims from Beirut to travel south and picnic on the beaches.

The Israeli Army has now evacuated all its equipment from Sidon and is driving through it, the city is already passing perceptibly into the hands of new masters.

There was considerable swiping in the Palestinian camp at Ein Helwe early yesterday morning between guerrillas loyal to Mr Yasser Arafat and those working for the pro-Syrian Abu Moussa. In Damascus, Mr Rashid Karami, the Lebanese Prime Minister, was holding urgent talks with President Assad about the Lebanese Army's plans to take control of Sidon.

High on the cliffs above the Awali river, most Israeli positions now stand deserted with only a few small units watching northwards through binoculars or sending patrols along the orchards by the shore of the shallow river. At the Bissri river checkpoint to the east, the Israeli troops expect to be

moved out on Monday or Tuesday next week, although the main base on the Mountain above them has already been evacuated.

Mr Hani Kazzab, one of the local Phalangist commanders in the Khayroub, yesterday ordered the last of his militiamen to leave their own positions opposite the Sunni Muslim Progressive Socialist Party front lines above the Mediterranean.

"We now have no military presence in the district and are trusting that the Lebanese Army on the coast road can maintain security," he said.

The Phalangists believe that the only serious battle to break out in Sidon in the wake of Israel's departure will be between Palestinian factions in Ein Helwe. Mr Kazzab agreed that this could spill over into other areas of the city.

"But journalists are painting too black a picture at the moment," he said. "It may be bad in Sidon but I think the Press is exaggerating the situation. We are doing everything we can to make sure there is no civil war."

Lebanese troops are still positioned a few hundred yards from the Awali River bridge, although they have not yet persuaded Druse gunmen to leave the roadside south of Beirut, thus failing to give Christians sufficient confidence to travel by highway to the capital.

In Damascus, Mr Karami accused the Israelis of trying to stir up sectarian hatred in Sidon. He still intends to order the Lebanese Army into the city when the Israelis go.

Heseltine aide in camera

Continued from page 1

the dock. Mr Loughland said he needed to be advised as to whether he should "blunder" into security matters in open court.

● **Channel Four** appeared yesterday to have found a way round a judge's order banning its slightly re-created of the Posing trial. (Our Legal

Affairs correspondent writes). There was no reaction to its coverage, which used news broadcasts instead of actors, from Mr Justice McCowan, who ordered on Monday that the programme be banned in their entirety. The court said they were not to be shown in any form.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

New exhibition

Painting, Drawing and Sculpture, 1959-84, by Michael Kidner, Hunter, Gallery, The University, Newcastle upon Tyne, Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 4.30 (ends March 2).

Exhibitions in progress

By Rivers and Seas, City Museum, West Park, Sheffield, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 11 to 5 (ends March 16).

Work by Robert Doisneau, Untitled Gallery, 171 Howard Road, Sheffield, Tues to Sat 10 to 5.30 (ends Feb 9).

Paintings by Anne Curtis, and The Bridge by Victor Burgin, Mappin Art Gallery, Western Park, Sheffield, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Feb 10).

Paintings by Steven Campbell, drawings and watercolours by Colin Self, Fruitmarket Gallery, Market Street, Edinburgh, Mon to Sat 10 to 6, Sun 2 to 6 (ends Feb 23).

Urban Portraits - etchings, lithographs and mezzotints by Anthony Davies, Printmakers' Workshop, Union Street, Edinburgh, Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30 (ends Feb 2).

Leaves Never Grow on Trees, Max Ernst's *Histoire Naturelle*, Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Street, Blackburn, Lancashire, Mon to Sat 9.30 to 5 (ends Feb 2).

Vivien John Retrospective 1930-1984, Phoenix Gallery, Lavenham, Suffolk, Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 6, Sun 2 to 6 (ends Feb 19).

Heinrich Matisse sculpture and drawings, Leeds City Art Gallery, The Headrow, Leeds, Mon to Fri 10 to 6, Wed to Sat 10 to 4, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Mar 24).

Art in Production: Soviet Textiles, Fashion and Ceramics 1917-1935, Museum of Modern Art, 30 St Pancras, London, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Feb 5).

Recital by David Bray (trumpet) and Jonathan Jones (organ), Robinson College Chapel, Cambridge, 8.15.

Concert by Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, The Congress Theatre, Bournemouth, 7.30.

Piano recital by Lawrence Glover, Stevenson Hall, Glasgow, 7.30.

Handel's *Messiah* by Leeds Polytechnic Chamber Society, Beckett Park Hall, Leeds, 7.30.

Concert by Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Winter Gardens, Bournemouth, 7.30.

Concert by Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Younger Hall, St Andrews, 8.

Piano recital by Alicia de Larrocha, St David's Hall, Cardiff, 7.30.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Debate on Inspector's report on Staines airport.

Lords (2.30): Debates on drug trafficking, disarmament, and on policing London buses.

Anniversaries

Births: Walter Savage Landor, writer, Warwick, 1775; Franklin D. Roosevelt, 32nd President of the United States, Hyde Park, New York, 1882.

Deaths: Charles I (reigned 1625-1649), executed, London, 1649; Charles Haddon Spurgeon, Baptist minister, Menton, France, 1892; Mahatma Gandhi, Delhi, 1948.

Steam train guide

A free pocket-sized guide to steam railways, centres and museums throughout the British Isles has been produced by BP Oil Limited for the Association of Railway Preservation Societies. The guide provides the location, telephone number and open days of 64 sites. Copies of the 1985 *Guide to Steam Trains in the British Isles* from A.R.P.S. Ltd, C/o Transport Trust, Marylebone Station, London, NW1 6JR (send 9" x 4" S.A.E.).

Portfolio

Monday-Saturday record your daily Portfolio total.

Portfolio - how to play

Monday-Saturday record your daily Portfolio total.

New books - hardback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

Essays by Oliver Hande XLII, Transactions of the Royal Society of Literature, Francis and Taylor, 1984, £12.50.

Modern Italy 1871-1982, by Martin Clark, (Longman, £9.95).

Poems by the Brothers Strabo, the early work of Charlotte, Emily and Anne Brontë, introduced by M. R. D. Seaward (A. & C. Black, £4.95).

The New Oxford Book of Canadian Verse in English, chosen by Margaret Atwood (Oxford, £9.50).

The Penguin Dictionary of the History of Ideas, edited by J. H. Green (Penguin, £12.50).

The Travels of Lord Byron in Greece and Turkey 1794, edited by M. B. Stanford and E. J. Pinnington (Penguin, £13.50).

Toll Down Pass, by Ian Fraser (Quartet, £3.50).

Tractate on the Jews, The Significance of Judaism for Christian Faith, by Franz Mussner, translated and introduced by Leonard Swidler (SPCK, £17.50).

Women in Anglo-Saxon England and the Impact of 1066, by Christine Fell (British Museum, £15).

The pound

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.60	2.64
Belgium F	73.80	74.00
Denmark Kr	16.46	16.50
France F	12.10	12.14
Germany DM	2.36	2.38
Italy L	1.36	1.38
Japan Yen	160.00	160.50
Netherlands Gld	2.20	2.22
Portugal Esc	166.00	166.50
Spain Ptas	166.00	166.50
Sweden Kr	1.36	1.38
Switzerland Fr	1.36	1.38
USA \$	1.54	1.56

Foreign exchange rates are quoted in pence per £1. Bank rates are for cash, and may vary from those quoted.

Gold prices: London, 385.5; New York, 385.5; Paris, 385.5.

The FT index closed down 18.7 at 3612.

The papers

"Uncertainty over the Government's handling of the economy is providing the ammunition for the critics in the markets, the Daily Star says. 'In the short term, there seem very few things the Government won't sacrifice to prove that the days of dither are over. Certainly not interest rates. Possibly not tax cuts. The message to all of us is: Tighten your belts.'"

"Everyone, that is, apart from big-spending ministers like Michael Heseltine, who told MPs yesterday that he's as determined as ever to press ahead with the Trident modernisation programme."

A ban on wildfowling in England and Wales imposed on January 16 because of severe winter conditions is lifted from today. A similar ban is in force in Scotland.

Snow reports

Depth (cm)	Conditions	Run to	Weather	Temp (°C)
10	good	good	fine	-5
20	fair	poor	cloud	-12
30	good	good	sun	-2
40	good	good	fine	0
50	good	good	fine	-1
60	good	good	fine	-1
70	good	good	fine	-1
80	good	good	fine	-1
90	good	good	fine	-1
100	good	good	fine	-1
110	good	good	fine	-1
120	good	good	fine	-1
130	good	good	fine	-1
140	good	good	fine	-1
150	good	good	fine	-1
160	good	good	fine	-1
170	good	good	fine	-1
180	good	good	fine	-1
190	good	good	fine	-1
200	good	good	fine	-1

Weather forecast

A ridge of high pressure over Britain will move away E. Frontal troughs from Atlantic cross W districts late in the day.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, Central E, Coastal W, NE England, East Angles, Midland Channel islands: Dry, sunny, heavy at first, becoming cloudy, rain spreading from W, wind W, light, backing SW, max 8 to 10C (46 to 50F).

SW, NW England, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man: Becoming cloudy, rain and drizzle spreading from W, inland coastal: fog, wind SW, light, increasing moderate, max 6 to 10C (43 to 50F).

Angly, NW Scotland, N Ireland: Cloudy with rain, heavy in places, clearing with showers, rain, wind SW, moderate, becoming strong, max 7 to 10C (45 to 50F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Changeable, rain at times, some drizzle, but generally sunny, with occasional rain, mainly mild generally.

SEA PASSENGERS: 5 North Sea, strong S or SE, Channel (E) Wind NW backing SW, fresh or strong, increasing rain, visibility moderate, max 42 patches: sea moderate or rough, at George Channel West Sea: Wind S or SW, strong, increasing rain, visibility moderate, sea rough, becoming very rough.

Sun rises: 7.42 am. Sun sets: 4.46 pm.

Moon rises: 2.09 am. Moon sets: 11.10 am.

Full Moon: February 5.

Lighting-up time

London 5.16 pm to 7.11 pm. Bristol 7.25 pm to 7.30 pm. Edinburgh 5.12 pm to 7.44 pm. Manchester 5.18 pm to 7.28 pm. Newcastle 5.43 pm to 7.52 pm.

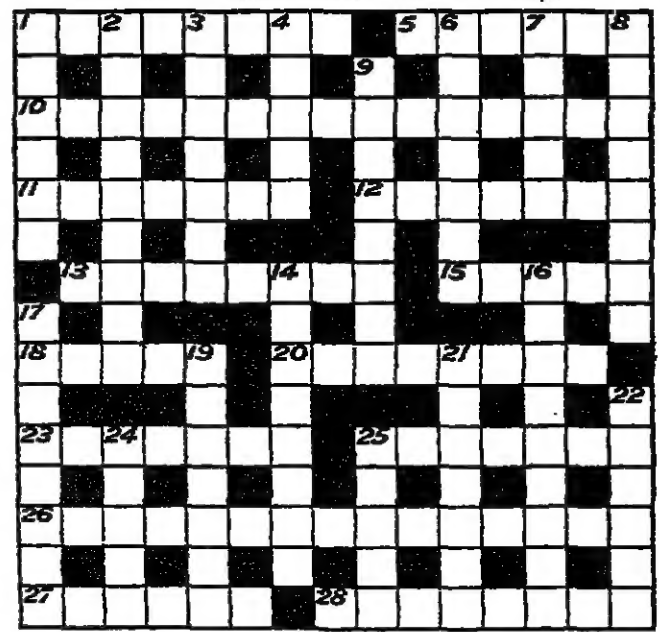
Wildfowl ban ends

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110	good	good	fine	-1
120	good	good	fine	-1
130	good	good	fine	-1
140	good	good	fine	-1
150	good	good	fine	-1
160	good	good	fine	-1
170	good	good	fine	-1
180	good	good	fine	-1
190	good	good	fine	-1
200	good	good	fine	-1

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,648



ACROSS

- Opened up by fish in the bottom of the sea (8).
- Lunar excursionist shows way to bracket centre of ball (18).
- The Times leader is far from vague (8,7).
- Subtle science (7).
- Mrs Coster - for whom everything had a moral (17).
- This was eminently unresponsive to the prophet's command (8).
- One's in the right not to get up (3,2).
- Poet appears, sound, we hear, if undecided (9).
- Decorated for soldier sent back in relief perhaps (8).
- Music from this, or round about, in a finale (17).
- Centre half certain to get the blame (7).
- Scientific impossibility demonstrated by Teanyon's brook (16).
- Does change include copper coin? (6).
- One is back in solid shape? Go on! (8).

Like the glass of spirit measure, a pound (7).

Services giving no odds on giddings at first (8).

News comprising all such points (8).

Insurance causes no end of a fuss about accommodation (8).

Topping performance (18).

Separate ring up in 7 (8).

Pay for cloth - remit, including gratuity (7).

Might it bang out in a new form of diplomacy? (17).

In which Mr Sturge's tables are turned? (6).

"So geographers, in maps, with savage pictures fill their gaps" (Swift) (5).

Music-maker turned into tax-collector (5).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,647

ACROSS

DOWN

1. Whence poor beggar Tom ambled perhaps (6).

2. Like one's nose for a rose (look up the plant) (9).

3. Naafi's supply of cutlery (7).

4. Registration of points score at Twickenham (5).

5. Some Times crossword puzzles include minor changes in the instructions on the reverse side. These are not reflected in this puzzle.

6. The words of Rules 2 and 3 have been expanded from earlier versions by clarification of the instructions. The instructions are now as follows: "The puzzle is to be played in exactly the same way as before."

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